



Map may save cyclists

Page 15



Journey from farm to factory

Page 14

Birds born of scrap

After two years of hiccups due to economic ups and downs, Xu Bing's Aerial Phoenix landed on the central business district. His birds' souls were shaped by the hands of a million construction workers.

The two giant phoenixes, each made of discarded construction materials, are a symbol of the area's transformation. After their Beijing debut, the birds will be sent on to Shanghai for next month's World Expo.

Read more on Pages 12-13.

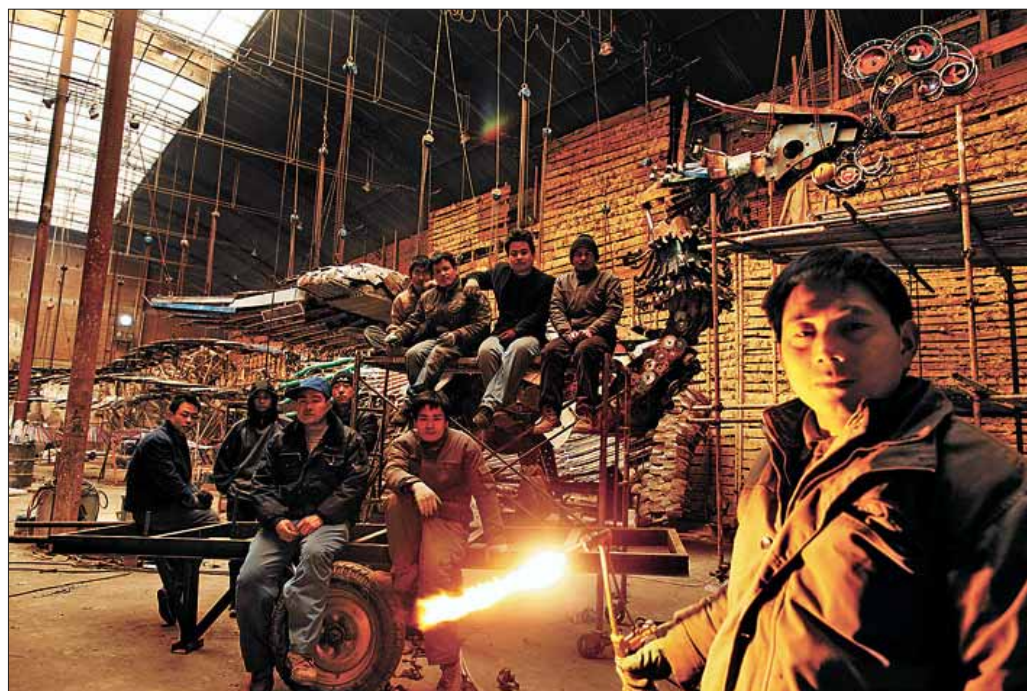


Photo provided by Ravenel Art Group

Hopes for soccer ride on Madrid

Page 4

Guanxi, not bribes key to business

Page 6

Museum of graft to teach with shame?

Page 7

Expat band still jamming after 5 years

Page 8

NEWLY RENOVATED! SPORTS & MUSIC ARENA

GOOSE & DUCK
ALL GIRLS BAND!

HOT POT!

CHINESE RESTAURANT

G&D SEAFOOD LUNCH BUFFET ¥49
G&D SEAFOOD DINNER BUFFET ¥98

北京市朝阳公园桥东北角观湖国际1号楼1层 59283047/48

City standardizes downtown parking fees

By Zhao Hongyi

Starting yesterday, the city standardized parking fees across its 13 downtown business centers. An official at the Municipal Committee of Development and Reform said it is part of an effort to bring down parking fees and get cars off the street and into the right spots.

The 13 areas include Beijing Railway Station, Beijing West Railway Station, Dongzhimen Street, Lufthansa Center, Dongdan-Wangfujing, Qianmen Business Center, Chaoyang CBD and Financial Street.

Parking fees will be 3 to 5 yuan depending on which area the lot is in.

The new pricing system requires an increase of 50 percent after the first hour of parking.

At Henderson Center, COFCO Plaza and CBD, the change brought parking costs down by 1 yuan.

However, Oriental Plaza increased the monthly rental fees for its subterranean spots from 800 yuan to 880 yuan. Parking hours have changed to 7 am – 9 pm from

7 am – 5 pm.

Parking fees at the neighboring Dongdan, Xi'dan and Lufthansa Center increased by 1 to 2 yuan for the first 30 minutes.

The change coincides with the opening of many new lots.

Chaoyang District opened four new parking areas near the CBD and Wangjing residential communities to add 1,000 spots. Wangfujing also added 1,445 new parking spots for street visitors: the Wangfujing Department Store alone added 500 new spots.

In 2001, the municipal government allowed the 10 business centers, mostly in the downtown area, to adopt fluctuating price systems based on demand. However, most of the downtown parking spots ended up empty after repeated rate hikes.

Many vehicles began parking on main roads or in illegal parking lots.

"It has been a waste of land resources," Li Hong, the official from the development committee,



The city hopes to rid downtown streets of illegal parking sites.

CFP Photo

said. "We need to set reasonable standards for the fees."

The changes are not expected to affect business vehicles but may help keep some private cars off downtown streets. Many private car owners said they prefer to park their cars in suburban parking areas and take the subway to the office.

Among them is woman surnamed Zhang who works in the China Steel tower. "It takes only 40 minutes and is not crowded if you

can avoid peak hours." Other car owners have discussed car pooling to fight the costs.

The municipal traffic bureau suggested individuals entering the downtown area use public transportation.

"We have 292 bus routes and five subway lines covering all these business centers," an official at the bureau said. "We'll keep an eye on the demand and adjust the routes if needed."

Subway adopts new permanent security measures



New bomb-sniffing dogs are sweeping the subway stations to keep passengers safe.

CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

Beijing police stepped up security checks at subway stations Tuesday in response to Monday's suicide bombings in Moscow.

"Bag scanning will now be a permanent policy in Beijing. Each bag, big or small, must be scanned before being carried past the gates," said Liu Xiaoming, spokesman for the Municipal Commission of Transportation, a subsidiary of the

Beijing Municipal of Public Security Bureau.

Handheld security devices are already in use on the subway network, and new bomb-sniffing dogs are being deployed at each station for regular patrol.

Liu said the series of blasts in Moscow's subway convinced Beijing it is time for the city to strengthen its rail patrols and post more guards near subway entrances and checkpoints.

Early March 30, all police dogs

from the Public Transportation Security Department were patrolling the subway stations. Additional dogs were borrowed from relevant departments to intensify subway security checks.

"To keep the city's public transportation safe, we are planning to increase the number of police dogs and the frequency of their patrols. Police will be required to conduct better searches of suspicious persons and improve their emergency

response plans," Liu said.

Kou Liping, an urban public security expert from China University of Geosciences said "Moscow should be a hard lesson."

The city's subway construction plan calls for a total 560 kilometers of underground rails by 2015. The rapidly growing urban population is expected to hit 21 million by that time. "The faster the urban infrastructure develops, the more brittle the security system might be," she said.

Capital, the biggest nest for country's 'sea turtles'

By Chu Meng

The number of students returning to Beijing from overseas leaped by 15,000 this year, a 28 percent rise over the figure last year and the biggest increase ever, the deputy director of the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange said Wednesday.

"The center issued 37,113 overseas returnee certificates in 2007, 40,047 in 2008 and more than 51,600 last year," Yu Haiying, from the service center, said.

"Students come back to the capital hoping for better opportunities," Li Gang, an official from the Beijing Overseas Talents Center, said.

The local government long ago began to encourage overseas returnees to work in Beijing-based companies or start their own businesses by offering to fast-track them for Beijing city hukou.

Most returnees have a master's degree from an English-speaking country. More than 12,000 of the 2009 returnees studied in the UK, 5,000 studied in Australia and 3,000 studied in the US. Another 3,000 studied in Japan.

"We do have some 'senior sea turtles' who got doctoral degrees abroad. But they are a small portion. Those with doctoral degrees have a good chance of getting a well-paid job abroad, so most choose not to come home," Yu said.

"So many friends of mine chose to return to China," said Xue Wen, a returnee who got her master's degree in Environmental Protection Project Management in the US. She said most of her friends believe they have a better chance of starting a successful career in China.

"We lack the cultural background and language advantages that native people have overseas, so it is better to return to China," Xue said.

But education experts are worried.

"Returnees without a plan are likely to end up in the Ant Group," Chu Zhaohui, a researcher from National Institute for Educational Research, said. "Even if they received higher education abroad, know a foreign language and have a richer family, their lack of basic career experience and a position in society is the same problem that has crippled the advancement of their peers."

He also said the city's industrial structure is in the middle of a shakeup. It will be awhile before industry settles and there will be a new demand for their talents, he said.

Local customs, loopholes leave dead babies in bags

Experts said the bodies of 21 infants and fetuses were dumped in a Shandong Province river because of "old local customs and a lack of regulations."

In parts of the country, especially in poor rural areas, parents are reluctant to reclaim the bodies of their infants to hold a funeral. They often abandon the bodies in a hospital corner or pay someone else to handle the burial, said Ma Guanghai, deputy dean at Shandong University's School of Philosophy and Social Development.

If the bodies are recovered from a hospital corner, the hospital is required to register the identification of the dead baby, report it to the public security bureau and hand over the body for cremation.

Abandonment is an outdated practice that began when there were higher rates of infant mortality. A modern society that respects life should not allow abandonment to continue, Ma said.

Experts called for immediate regulations that would determine the legal status of the dead babies. Regulations that specify a respectful procedure for dealing with the bodies is also needed, they said.

Dead fetuses have no legal classification in China, but neither is it appropriate to classify them as medical waste, said Cao Yongfu, deputy director of the Medical Ethics Institute at Shandong University.

"There should be regulations for dealing with the bodies of infants and dead fetuses that comply with both laws and folk customs," he said. "Otherwise, there will always



Men search for more bags of bodies under the Gunagfuhe bridge in a village in Jining county, Shandong Province. IC Photo

be loopholes for hospital management."

Residents and firemen on Monday fished out 21 dead babies and fetuses from under a bridge crossing the Guangfu River on the outskirts of Jining City, where they were dumped.

Eight of the 21 bodies had hospital tags still attached to their feet. The tags showed the bodies were from the Affiliated Hospital of Jining Medical University.

Mortuary workers Zhu Zhenyu and Wang Zhijun were sacked by the hospital and detained by police for agreeing with the dead babies' relatives to dispose of the bodies for a fee, said Gong Zhenhua, a city

government spokesman.

"They transported the bodies secretly to the Guangfu River, but they failed to bury the bodies completely," he added.

Two senior officials, Li Luning and He Xin, a director and deputy director of the hospital's Logistics Department, have been removed from their posts in the wake of the incident.

A vice president of the hospital, Niu Haifeng, has been suspended from his post.

The Jining Municipal Health Bureau offered a public apology for their ineffective supervision.

(Xinhua)

Web rages over Hubei's naked boat-tracking men



Naked boat trackers drag a boat through the shallows of the Shennong Stream in Three Gorges, Badong County, Hubei Province. IC Photo

By Wang Yu

Last Friday, four naked boat trackers made their debut performance tugging a boat through the shallows in Shenlongxi, Hubei Province.

Their work met with no applause — only negative criticism from the Internet.

The idea was first posed by Wang Lin, a member of People's Political Consultative Conference from Hubei Province.

He posted online his proposal to establish a "Sanxia naked boat tracker festival" to attract tourists to local scenic spots. In the article, Wang wrote that he was sure female travelers would enjoy ogling the naked boat trackers' muscular bodies.

Shenlongxi's boat trackers, the ship-

ands who help pull small vessels through shallows in the river, traditionally worked in the nude.

It is not the first time authorities have sought to exploit the human form to promote travel. In the late 1980s, boat trackers worked in the nude when the scenic spot was first becoming a popular tourist destination.

Local government officials at the time said they received complaints, especially from female tourists, who said the naked men working the ropes made them "uncomfortable."

Netizens called Wang's idea a ridiculous proposal.

Yao Benchu, a member of the People's Political Consultative Conference of Enshi

Autonomous Prefecture, approved of Wang's plan. He said the proposal would restore part of the local culture and provide local tourism with something unique.

Yao suggested local officials take the lead in getting their boat trackers naked.

Netizens said the activity should be illegal since it is considered an erotic performance. Jiang Guoyuan, a lawyer at the Sichuan Wendian law office, said even if the performance is not found to be "spreading erotic content" it still needed to be stopped as an immoral act.

Some have said the boat trackers are being used. Zhang Houfang, leader of the trackers, said most of his men were willing to strip down if tourists were willing to pay.

Rising labor costs make illegal immigrants attractive employees

By Han Manman

A labor shortage in Guangdong Province has attracted a growing number of foreigners who are smuggling themselves into China as cheap workers.

Most of the workers are coming in from South and East Asian countries like Vietnam, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, though a few come from as far as Africa. Factory bosses like them because they work hard for little pay, *Guangzhou Daily* reported early this week.

Workers maintain a low profile, as most are in the country illegally, the report said.

Chinese colleagues describe the workers as loners who are always wary of being targeted for a surprise inspection.

"They are hardworking and don't mind suffering. They do the heavy, manual labor that most of us are unwilling to do. I heard that 1,000 yuan for them is relatively high pay in their home country," one Chinese worker was quoted as saying of his 20 Vietnamese colleagues.

Most are brought into the country by human smugglers. The report said a few enter the country legally, but fail to leave after their passports or visas expire.

Many bus drivers are in on the smuggling. Before the bus reaches the entry and exit checkpoint, their human cargo is instructed to get off and take motorcycles around the checkpoint. After the checkpoint, everyone gets back on the bus.

Recent government figures show that Guangdong's Pearl River Delta, the producer of nearly one-third of China's total exports, saw an exodus of 23 percent of its migrant workers in 2009.

Domestic experts said the shortages can be attributed to government policies aimed at closing the income gap between the urban rich and rural poor.

"Many employers are turning a blind eye to illegal workers due to a shortage of domestic labor," said an officer from Zhuhai Exit-Entry Administration Bureau who refused to be named.

Illegal immigrants flock to Chinese factories because of better opportunities and pay. Sometimes laborers would sneak back soon after they are deported, he said.

The penalties are also too low to deter workers and employers. In Zhuhai, an employer will be fined only 5,000 to 50,000 yuan for hiring an illegal immigrant.

Fu Lang, director of Guangdong Foreign Affairs, said the provincial government is investigating its problems with illegal immigrants, illegal residents and illegal employment — what Guangdong has termed "the three illegals."

Police from Guangxi and Guangdong said they are tightening checks to crack down on illegal immigrants.

Earlier this month, 66 Vietnamese people without passports were intercepted on a bus bound for Zhuhai. The city deported 400 expats who entered or worked illegally in the city since last year.

Fu said illegal immigration will continue until the government steps up its regulation of expats.

He said the central government has paid great attention to the problem and the local government is working to legislate ways to improve its own management of foreigners.



Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham poses for the launch of his Soccer Academy at a California Home Depot.



Raul Gonzales Blanco, captain of Real Madrid, plays with students at the Reubuss Football School in Dakar, Senegal.



The soccer field at the Beijing Olympic Center

Country pins soccer dreams on Spanish schools

Real Madrid Football Club, the world's top soccer team, is continuing with plans to open a soccer school in the capital.

Representatives from the Real Madrid Foundation visited the Dajing Training Base, where Guo'an, the Beijing soccer team, used to train, Chaoyang Stadium and Beijing Muslim Middle School and Donghu Middle School before settling on the Beijing Olympic Center, opposite the National Stadium.

The school, the foundation promised, will be open free to all Chinese children interested in the sport.

"We hope to bring Spain's soccer culture and skills to Beijing," said Ysidoro San Jose, the foundation's supervisor of international projects.

Real Madrid also signed an agreement with its China's partner, the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, to open more soccer schools in Beijing and China in the future and to make more soccer fields accessible to children.

Capital gets new school

The new school at the Beijing Olympic Center is not Real Madrid's first adventure into the wild world of Chinese soccer. The foundation, working through its brand developer Asia Sports Development (ASD), cooperated previously with the Shenhua Football Club to start a soccer school in Shanghai.

The school, which uses European soccer education techniques, has 200 pupils between the ages of 12 and 14 years and is searching for more young players. It invites local coaches and students to train in Spain and sends Spanish players and coaches to Shanghai to work with the students.

As part of the deal, Real Madrid was allowed to open shops and cafes under its name in Shanghai. It also cooperated with several other companies to produce and sell T-shirts and souvenirs with its logos in Beijing.

Committed to soccer

Real Madrid may be the missing link in China's soccer development.

The country has no shortage of talented players, said Shao

By Zhao Hongyi

Real Madrid Foundation visited Beijing this weekend to scout a location for China's second soccer school.

Organizers hope the new school will help stack the national team with quality players who will clear the clouds of shame that have shrouded the team after years of miserable defeats and scandals.

The first school, located in Shanghai, has been cultivating young players since 2004.



Players for Real Madrid (in white) will help to train students and coaches.

CFP Photos

Cheng, executive president of the Foundation of Football Charity from the Overseas Chinese Economic and Cultural Foundation of China.

What it is missing is educated players who know how to work together and an infrastructure to give them support and training: an environment that will nurture a pure interest in the sport, Shao said.

"If you want a soccer player to play his best, then you need to do your best to support him," San Jose said.

Real Madrid said its project will cultivate closer ties between the Chinese and Spanish football teams and support Chinese soccer as it becomes a world-class competitor.

Dreams and disappointments

The Chinese national soccer team has a mixed reputation at

home. While most fans love the team and hope it will bring home a victory, its reputation has been soured by lackluster international performance: it has never managed a victory at any level of international competition.

Reforms began in 2000, when organizers were hopeful that commercial soccer might bring a renaissance to the ailing industry.

Things looked promising the first two years, when the Chinese team qualified to compete in the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. But after four straight losses, the national team returned home a total failure.

Chinese fans blamed the performance on then-coach Bora Milutinovic.

Since then, Chinese soccer has been in free fall.

This year, a number of frauds and scandals rocked the National Football Committee: serious allegations involved many top offi-

cials and players. Several officials were found guilty of fixing matches for money.

Many fans began looking to foreign teams, hoping to invite them to play and to demonstrate the integrity and sportsmanship that was absent at home. With the country's newfound wealth, inviting international teams to play exhibition matches in China has become more feasible.

After the 2008 Olympic Games, organizers invited Manchester United and Real Madrid to scrimmage with local teams at the Bird's Nest. It was one of the first post-Olympic uses of the expensive facilities built for the games.

On August 8, 2009, a year after the Beijing Olympic Games, the Bird's Nest held the final match of Italian Super Cup between Inter-Milan and Lazio, which generated millions of euros in profits. Early reports have said that Real Madrid and Barcelona

will play this August 8 in a match estimated to generate €70 million (645 million yuan).

Real Madrid not alone

"We expect to set up more than 40 soccer schools in China with a 10-million-yuan investment," San Jose said.

In Spain, most soccer fields are occupied by students: in China, children only have a chance to play on the weekends, if at all.

"Soccer development has to start with the children. That is how you are going to see some real star players," he said.

Real Madrid is not the only club interested in opening a soccer school.

Barcelona is considering opening its own schools, but both the team and its Chinese partners have not made any timetable public.

Barcelona is the hometown of Juan Antonio Samaranch, former president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) who has a good reputation in China for having helped the country secure its bid for the 2008 Olympics.

The Barcelona team, together with Samaranch Foundation, may open a "Samaranch-Barcelona" soccer school.

Still a business

"It's a win-win project for both Chinese football and Real Madrid," said Qiao Wei, vice president of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese and the local partner of Real Madrid. "Real Madrid has the best players, the best coaches and the most amazing skills."

"We hope the school can open soon," Qiao said.

To push ahead the project, Real Madrid started an independent entity, Soccer China, to promote the school. Karl Lewis, president of Soccer China, came to the capital to finalize the location.

"It's still a commercial game," said Wen Shangde, a retired Beijinger and soccer fan. "Real Madrid wants money and we want their football skills and culture."

"But it's still something to be excited about, because it is progress. Anything is good if it has a chance of helping our soccer industry," he said.

It's big, it's back, it's the World Expo

If China could create another legacy after the Beijing Olympics, it is the Shanghai World Expo.

While previous expos in Zaragoza and Hanover went largely unnoticed, Shanghai is creating such a big production that countries are going all out to impress an expected 70 million visitors.

Final preparations underway for Shanghai Expo



The Bund reopened last Sunday after three years of construction work.

CFP Photos

Trial operation

The Shanghai World Expo will start trial operation on April 20 with the participation of about 70 percent of the pavilions, the organizer said Tuesday.

Yang Xiong, executive vice mayor of Shanghai and executive deputy director of the Executive Committee for the Shanghai World Expo, denied rumors that 10 to 20 percent of the pavilions might fail to open in time – as at previous expos.

"We will go all out to reduce the number of pavilions that will be unable to open on schedule,"

Yang said.

The expo is to run from May 1 to October 31.

Bund reborn for Expo

Shanghai's The Bund reopened last Sunday after three years of construction work to restore the riverfront former foreign concession to its 1930s glory.

The promenade between the colonial-style buildings and the river has been widened by 40 percent, while the road is narrower after a new tunnel was built beneath The Bund, rerouting three quarters of the traffic,

officials said.

"The renovation aims to bring back the old feel of The Bund, which used to belong to pedestrians and tourists before it gradually gave way to busy vehicle traffic," Zhou Wei, the head of Huangpu District which covers The Bund, said in a news briefing.

Domestic pride

China is the first developing nation to host the World Expo and officials hope the event will promote intercultural communication and understanding.

"It will help Chinese people

understand foreign countries much better and help them better understand us," Xu Wei, the expo's communications and promotions deputy director, said. The US pavilion for instance, could serve as a place where Americans and Chinese can engage in conversation, he said.

"Shanghai will definitely be like New York in the future," said Tang Chunyan, a shop assistant in a newly renovated mall in downtown Shanghai, referring to the Big Apple's multicultural population.

(Xinhua and agencies)

Sidelights

Shanghai hotel prices to soar

The prices of Shanghai hotels are expected to rise across the board during the World Expo, with the highest being triple the normal rates, *Beijing News* reported Tuesday.

In an interview with 15 hotels near the expo site, the paper found that prices are expected to climb 40 percent on average, with two- and three-star hotels beating four- and five-star hotels in the increase.

A room in a five-star hotel will cost 2,300 to 3,000 yuan a night, an increase of 25 percent over the regular rate.

Shanghai authorities said they didn't want to see an unreasonable increase in hotel prices and has recruited 500 urban and 200 suburban families to accommodate foreign friends, the report said.

Umbrellas, beverages pose danger

Long-handled umbrellas,

bottled beverages and 20 other types of articles will be prohibited from the expo site due to security concerns, Shanghai police said last weekend.

"All drinks, except for milk products for infants, will not be allowed into the expo site," Zhu Weiming, deputy director of Shanghai Public Security Bureau, said.

Zhu said people entering the site will pass through two security checks and asked visitors to cooperate with the security measures.

He said there will be a first, random check outside the site. Here, visitors will be reminded not to bring forbidden items.

The second check will be done at the expo entrance and will involve "a strict search of all people and their belongings."

Little Mermaid heads for expo

Denmark's Little Mermaid sculpture left her perch in



Denmark's Little Mermaid will be an attraction at the expo.

Copenhagen last week to fly to the World Expo in Shanghai.

The iconic statue, inspired by a character created by Hans Christian Andersen in an 1837 fairytale and known as the "old lady of the sea," was bathed in spring sunshine as she was lifted into the air by a giant crane and loaded onto a truck before taking off for an eight-month adventure in China.

"It pains my heart," Christa Rindom, a teacher carrying her 8-month-old son Ludvig, said as she watched Denmark's main tourist attraction disappear.

"I will miss her, even if I am proud that she is getting to travel to see the world and to represent Denmark," she told AFP, as Danish and Chinese children's choirs sang in the background.

(Agencies)

Opinion

What are Shanghai's ambitions?

Unlike recent expos that concentrated on promoting foreign trade, the Shanghai Expo has set its goals higher.

Global elite stops by

Because of Shanghai's strategic location at the mouth of the Yangtze River, one of every five shipping containers linking China with the rest of the world is loaded or unloaded in Shanghai. And 12.5 percent of all foreign investment in the country is pumped into the city.

Today's Shanghai ranks as one of the most economically prosperous cities in the world, and multinational companies and foreign talents are gravitating toward it.

In the past year, 280,000 flights have landed at its Pudong International Airport, bringing 30 million business travelers and tourists from America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Using Shanghai to move the world

The city's promising future has ignited a frenzy of urban design, technological inventions, cultural activities and consumerism on a grand scale.

The average per capita income of residents has surpassed 68,000 yuan, and the cost and quality of living there are now in step with that of international cities.

In the new outlet of the upscale Taiwanese restaurant Din Tai Fung on Nanjing Road, opened in the run-up to the World Expo, empty seats are impossible to find. A table of five enjoying dumplings filled with truffles can run up a bill up to three times the monthly wage of an average laborer.

Shanghai spent much effort to paint over its seamy, unsightly side. Even if the cracks and contradictions still peek out, the city seems to be saying, "Give me a fulcrum, and I will move the world."

The Shanghai Expo is that fulcrum, which the city hopes will help it recapture its golden age in the 1930s.

Modernization in a single leap

Unlike previous world fairs that were located on the periphery of metropolitan areas, Shanghai decided to build its expo in the heart of the city as part of a plan to renovate its historical district, now home to 20 million people.

The strategy coincided with the country's big-picture plan.

To bridge the great divide between the city and the countryside, the government has opened the doors of small- and mid-sized cities to more residents, allowing in additional farm workers at a rate of 1 percent a year. The policy is helping reduce the urban-rural and rich-poor gap, and giving the new arrivals a taste of the conveniences of urban living.

(China Post)

Risks and rewards

Is bribery necessary for business in China?



Wenzhounese have become an economic phenomena.

By Huang Daohen

Curtains closed on a recent ruckus in the business sector: Germany's Daimler was fined \$185 million (1.2 billion yuan) as punishment for under-the-table dealings and four of Australia's Rio Tinto employees were jailed on charges of bribery.

It may seem like a simple matter of crime and punishment, but some Western business executives in China see it as a chilling reminder of the perils of doing business in China.

Without paying the right "bribes" to win contracts, it is hard to compete with local companies who are good at milking the system, many complained.

Whether or not to pay is a big question. But the story of one Wenzhou businessman who made a fortune from nothing may inspire anxious CEOs.



Wenzhou entrepreneurs are known due to their ability to endure hardship and succeed.

IC Photos

Tale from Wenzhou

"How do you do business in China?" Huang Shenghe laughed as he sipped afternoon tea at his office in the CBD Wednesday.

Huang, a businessman from Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, said that question does not have a simple answer.

"Well, not paying bribes like Daimler did is a good start," Huang said, "But it would be naive to try to do business in China with a Western mind and approach."

Huang, in his 40s, is qualified to comment on doing business in China. He was born in 1961 in a city known for making 70 percent of the world's cigarette lighters and 10 percent of its shoes.

In 1979, Huang started a business making lighter parts. Three decades later, he is a millionaire and owns a lighter factory, a shoe factory, a printing company and real-estate interests.

But three decades ago, it would have been hard to imagine his business success today.

"We weren't allowed to do business so we worked in secret," Huang said. At that time, when the country had just started to open, private business was forbidden.

A nervous Huang put up a little table in front of his house and sold toys. "I was very scared, but I had to make a living. So I thought I might as well try business," he said. At age 18, he started a lighter-parts factory.

Boxed in by mountains and the sea, Wenzhou's land shortage and lack of job opportunities

forced young people like Huang into business.

Now Wenzhou is known as the country's capital of economic reform effects. Official statistics show that 99 percent of the city works in the private sector.

Last year, one in every three Chinese tourists overseas was from Wenzhou and one-tenth of all China's luxury cars can be found in the small city of 8 million.

Diversify

Huang followed a typical Wenzhou path. After getting money to start a business, he diversified. He invested in imports and exports, wine and real estate.

"I set up businesses and dropped those that didn't make money, like my start-up business, the lighter-parts factory," Huang said. "It is too risky to put all your eggs in one basket."

Wenzhounese are notorious for their real-estate investments. Only two months ago they made the news for planning a group trip to Dubai to search for bargains in the Middle East.

"In Wenzhou, everyone does real estate. Everyone is pushing up the prices of buildings," he said. "People are not scared. And everyone wants to be their own boss."

Therefore, Huang diversified again.

These days, Wenzhou residents drink one in every 10 bottles of wine sold in China: liquor is an important lubricant when business deals are on the table. Three years ago, Huang opened a store selling high-end European wines.

But Huang said Wenzhou businessmen here are too busy making money to bother with wine culture. "If they think that wine is too sour, they spike it with Coca-Cola," he said. "I don't see the need to emphasize European wine culture here. Wenzhou people are too busy for all that."

Though he is still in business, Huang is not satisfied with himself. "I'm ashamed that I'm still a small entrepreneur after three decades," he said. "There are so many Wenzhou people who went into business after me who have developed huge companies and became the bosses of big factories."

At his office in one of the city's high-end commercial buildings, Huang plans for his next diversification.

Honesty and guanxi
But do Wenzhou businessmen bribe to win contracts? Huang said

he'd rather choose to be honest.

"Sometimes, honesty in business is better than contracts," he said.

Huang said he himself had come across occasions of commercial bribery and found its prevalence is not restricted to new emerging markets like China and India. Developed countries have been involved in "pay to play" for decades, he said.

More vital to business is *guanxi*, the right relationships. "If one wants to conduct successful business in China, it is essential to observe and understand its market and business culture," he said.

Guanxi can be any type of relationship, Huang said. In the Chinese business world, however, it is understood as the network of relationships among various parties who cooperate and support each other.

"It is like a win-win situation and partners exchange favors, which are expected to be done regularly and voluntarily," Huang said.

The right network of relationships will minimize business risks, he said.

Huang said many business deals fail early on due to some fundamental misunderstandings. For example, it is known to foreign businessmen that Chinese like drinking spirits during business discussions.

"But do not take that to mean that everyone you meet will be an alcoholic," he said. "The toughest part of understanding a people is understanding their ethics, values, etiquette and protocol."

News analysis

Will the Volvo brand thrive?

Geely finalized a deal Sunday to buy Volvo, the world-renowned Swedish auto brand, from the US's Ford Corporation.

The Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, based in Hangzhou, agreed to pay 12.2 billion yuan for the car brand. The sale of one of Europe's most storied brands shows how China has emerged not just as the world's largest auto market, surpassing the US last year for the first time, but also as a country determined to expand its market share around the globe.

Geely's management said it is willing to continue production of Volvo cars in Sweden and said it plans to build another Volvo assembly plant in China. Ford built several Volvo S-40s for the local market at a plant in Chongqing. The cars sold well.

Auto analysts said acquiring a well-known brand like Volvo is the fastest way for Geely to move from making affordable small cars to producing cars for the middle class.

The country's automakers are ambitious, but Geely Auto stands out even by Chinese standards. While making most of its money on inexpensive compacts and subcompacts, it has turned heads at auto shows with ambitious concept cars that resemble luxury brands.

The company has promised to retain Volvo's existing management, but said it hired several executives with international automotive experience to oversee its new subsidiary in Sweden.

Zhejiang Geely is controlled by its founder, Li Shufu, the son of farmers from the town of Taizhou. Li turned a small business that made motorcycle parts there into one of the country's fastest-growing companies.

"I want to emphasize that Volvo is Volvo and Geely is Geely - Volvo will be run by Volvo management," Li said at a news conference in Goteborg, Sweden. "We are determined to preserve the distinct identity of the Volvo brand."

The deal is expected to be finalized by the third quarter, but issues involving technology and brands may persist for several years.

Yale Zhang, the director of greater China vehicle forecasts for CSM Worldwide, an international consulting firm, said that the acquisition would benefit Geely's image at home, because many Chinese buyers will take pride in the acquisition of such a famous brand.

But Zhejiang Geely may face challenges abroad, because its past experiences are limited to the domestic market. "It will help Geely's brand, that's for sure," Zhang said. "The challenges and the risks are equal to the opportunity."

The domestic market for luxury cars is expected to expand in the coming years from roughly 300,000 cars last year to 650,000 in 2015, experts said.

There may be room for Volvo in China, but the brand's success depends on Geely's next move.

(Agencies)

Museum joins battle against graft and corruption

By Li Zhixin

A planned anti-graft museum in the southwest is asking the public to nominate the 100 most corrupt officials of the past century, *West China Metropolis Daily* reported Saturday.

Fan Jianchuan, who operates a private museum complex in Chengdu, said on his micro-blog at sina.com that he is preparing to build a Corruption Museum.

He said he came up with the idea while he was building his 'Traitors' Museum. "During the Anti-Japanese War, people hated traitors; since the country's reform, people have hated corrupt officials," Fan said.

"The museum is accepting nominations from the public, who can then cast their votes on the museum's website," he said.

Due to limited space, the museum can only accommodate the heavyweights. Criteria for choosing the top 100 include the official's position, how much the person stole, what means he/she employed, circumstances surrounding the illegal activity and its impact on the public, Fan said.

His biggest concern now is how to collect artifacts for the Corruption Museum — items that the officials illegally acquired. "We are now identifying and classifying the important pictures in our photo library. Next, we will collect objects by participating in auctions and soliciting public donations," he said.

Fan said he will ask the Communist Party's disciplinary committee for support and said he envisions the museum as an anti-corruption edu-



Will the anti-graft museum serve as a warning to corrupt officials?
CFP Photo

cation center, possibly even providing tours for criminals serving prison sentences on corruption charges.

He said he hopes the museum would serve as a warning to officials and help deter corruption.

Fan did not specify when it will open, but said it will be part of a complex that already houses small museums on the Communist Revolution, China's war with Japan in World War II, the Cultural Revolution, traditional matrimonial culture and disastrous Chinese earthquakes.

Premier Wen Jiabao reiterated last month that rampant corruption remained a government problem despite years of efforts to stamp it out, and admitted the problem will affect social stability.

Comment

Public anti-corruption effort expanding

It is very exciting to see that public effort to fight corruption is expanding, although it requires systematic improvement of the legal system and the central government's political will to eradicate it. Still, it is a good complement to building an honest bureaucracy and can be a tool to reflect the public's sentiments.

The government has an anti-corruption education campaign, but few officials are interested. But the museum will hopefully draw curious officials and encourage introspection.

— Duan Qigang, publishing house editor

Corrupt officials do not deserve a museum

It sounds ridiculous to build

a museum for corrupt officials. A museum is a repository for objects that have scientific, historical or artistic value. I really can't see what scientific or artistic value the corruption museum can provide. In my view, it is an insult to the word "museum" by putting it after "corruption." Why not build a museum for honest and upright officials? That is more meaningful.

— Jeff Hunter, freelancer

Problematic to operate

I don't think the museum will succeed, because obtaining convicted officials' ill-gotten possessions is very difficult. Those things are rare and very expensive. Even if the museum manages to get them by paying big money, their maintenance will also require a huge sum.

It's going to be very hard for a private person to operate such a museum.

Although it hopes to help prevent corruption, we can't expect the museum to be the magic drug that will solve the country's corruption problems. What we need is a solid administrative system and a strict mechanism to combat and punish corruption.

— Gongbao Cairang, IT engineer

Creative business idea

It is a creative business idea. I think the owner just wants to make money out of the public's revulsion for corrupt officials. It will be a great place for the public to vent their anger on erring officials.

— Michele Loree, postgraduate student at Peking University

Man fined for keeping porn at home

By Huang Daohen

An incident seven years ago triggered a nationwide debate over the boundaries between public order and individual rights when a couple was arrested for watching porn at home.

Sichuan resident Yang Huajun (pseudonym) never thought the same thing would happen to him; only this time, the police revoked their charge and returned his fine.

Yang, a middle-aged man from Yibin, Sichuan Province, was fined 3,000 yuan when police searched his computer last week and found 7 gigabytes worth of pornographic videos.

Local media reported the case and brought the introverted Yang under harsh public scrutiny. News reports said Yang liked surfing the Internet and came

across the Japanese porn videos by "accident." Out of curiosity, he downloaded them.

Yang protested the invasion of privacy in online posts. "They were just adult videos that I watched by myself and I had never shown them to anyone else, so I can't imagine that this would be a big deal. Many people watch this sort of thing on the Internet," he said.

His words generated a flurry of responses. "But how did Yang come to the attention of the police to the point where they searched his computer? Did they do so randomly?" one netizen said.

On March 29, faced with questions and public condemnation, local police reviewed the case and revoked their decision to fine Yang.

Liu Yingnan, the police chief, said the fine was decided based on

the law: the Computer Information Network and Internet Security Regulations approved by the State Council in 1997. It said the copying, downloading or transmission of pornographic content on the Internet is illegal.

Liu said the review revealed that Yang downloaded and watched the pornographic videos at home, but there was no proof that he distributed it or used it for profit. So the charge was withdrawn.

The officer also said the police didn't break into Yang's home; he came under their radar during an investigation of online chat groups that discussed molestation of young girls.

Though Yang's case is closed, the debate about the use of porn at home persists.

Comment

A lesson in law

Downloading porn will have a negative influence on children. This problem is spreading and the authorities are doing their best to stop it. In this case, the public also got a free lesson in law.

— Joe, English teacher

Update the law

Every university student I know downloads and watches porn in the dorm. I bet the police themselves did the same thing in college. The 1997 law seriously needs to be updated, though it has been rarely enforced in recent years. But every time it's enforced, there's

an uproar.

— Wang Er, college student

OK to watch them

I think it's OK to allow people to watch adult videos as long as the stuff doesn't contain illegal acts, like rape or murder.

— Steven Vasdeferens, IT engineer

Legalize porn

Just legalize porn so people will spend less time trying to find ways to download Japanese porn and go straight for the domestic stuff.

— Xiao Wan, editor at The Beijing News

Greek photographer promotes environmentalism along Silk Road

By Li Zhixin

The relationship between humans and nature should be one of mutual respect, and people no matter how different can learn from each other.

This is a lesson Greek photographer Ioannis Tzortzis, 45, said was driven home to him during a one-month journey from Athens to Beijing to promote environmentalism.

His photographs of the trip are on display in Athens to Beijing From the Silk Roads to Energy Roads at Anniart Gallery, 798 Art District, through April 25.

Tzortzis and nine other members of the Greek non-government organization Green Project traveled through Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China to retrace the ancient Silk Road trading route. In the process, they campaigned for environmental protection and investigated energy-saving technologies throughout the region.

On their 13,000-kilometer route – called “energy roads” because of natural gas pipelines running underneath – the team visited 18 renewable energy sites and 16 bio-climatic architecture, seven of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

In the national capitals, the group set up art exhibitions to promote environmental awareness and protection. “People who live along the route are very friendly and their awareness of energy saving is very strong. Students, scholars and government officials were very eager to exchange energy-saving ideas with our specialist,” Tzortzis said.

In China, the team visited a host of places: a bottled petrol station and wind-mill parks in Xinjiang Province, a hydro-electric plant, an frozen food warehouse and natural gas pipelines in Gansu Province, a Yellow River watermill in Lanzhou Province, a bathing house using geothermal power in Xi'an and the Olympics' energy-saving installations in Beijing.

“China's energy-saving technology is advanced, especially those used in the Olympic Games, even superior to European technology. That impressed us very much,” Tzortzis said.

However, the team, which included a biologist, civil engineer and economist, found Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan's ecology badly degraded. “For instance, the deserted oil wells in Baku, Azerbaijan, seri-



Ioannis Tzortzis (right) with Nina Kassianou

Photo by Li Zhixin

ously damage the life of nearby residents,” the photographer said.

During the journey, Tzortzis took 30,000 photos and 40 hours of video – one-third of that was taken in China. “Because the China's ethnic culture is rich and colorful,” said Tzortzis, who studied photography in London and is a member of the Royal Photographic Society of Great

Britain and the Photographic Circle of Greece. He was named RPS Travelling Photographer of the Year in 1993.

“The exhibition constitutes a vehicle for cultural diplomacy by highlighting the trip, which discusses the environment as well as the need for intercultural communication to battle climate change,” Nina Kassianou, the exhibition's curator, said.

Expats band celebrates five years of rock and jazz in the capital



China-based expat bands like RandomK(e) have to work harder than foreign bands to win audiences.

Photo provided by RandomK(e)

By Wang Yu

RandomK(e) has performed at 2 Kogas countless times, but last Saturday night was extra special for the expat band since it was celebrating 5 years in Beijing.

The group – composed of Jon Campbell (Canada), Jackson Garland (US), Lennox Meldrum (Australia), Adam Pillsbury (US) and Richard Todd (UK) – got together in late 2004 and played its first gig at the old Yugongyishan in March 2005. By day they revert to their roles as teacher, book editor, writer and music promoter.

The band's name is the result of an accident: a typographical error by Todd that jumped out of the page.

“It's hard to say the meaning of the name. Someone suggested that we put the ‘e’ in brackets because we sing in English. Sure,

that works. But not necessarily what we started out thinking. But I feel like it's one of those band names that matches perfectly the kind of music we play,” Campbell, the drummer, said. Garland is in charge of their electronic equipment, Pillsbury plays bass, while Meldrum is the video jockey.

RandomK(e)'s music fuses elements from rock and jazz, but improvisation is what best describes it. “Earlier on, Richard had written a bunch of songs that we shaped into RandomK(e) songs. But recently, our music has been the result of the four of us going inside a room and just jamming. Slowly, we turned the jams into pieces resembling songs,” Campbell said. “But I think lately, with a few exceptions, we've been very ‘jazz’ because there's a lot of space to move around that.”

Last year, the band released its first

album, *Waiting*, produced in Beijing by Britishman Martin Rawlins. It took the musicians only three days in the studio to complete it in January 2008. Pink Floyd's engineer Andy Jackson did the mastering in England.

Last month, the group opened the Beijing concert of US space-rock band Secret Machines, which Campbell calls one of their most exciting performances ever. Their biggest gig was at the MIDI Festival last year, while their most interesting was a show in Chongqing where they played for an audience that was one-third mountain goats.

China-based expat bands like RandomK(e) have to work harder than foreign bands to win audiences. They have to double advertising and marketing efforts since the local media usually do not take them seriously; both Chinese and foreign

journalists lump them under the group “just goofing around in China.” Meanwhile, listeners think they are just indulging a hobby and do not give them much thought.

“But I think anyone who has seen our shows or heard our recordings knows that we're the real deal,” Campbell said. “I'm from a country where anybody could be a ‘local,’ no matter what their native language is or what they look like. But I still find it tough to deal with that here even though I've been living in Beijing for almost 10 years,” he said.

Despite the difficulties, there is enough artistic inspiration to keep RandomK(e)'s members going back up the stage again and again. “I know it's amazing that we've made it this long ... Though we might not be in Beijing for the rest of our lives, we've certainly been around a long time,” Campbell said.

Media influences Sino-Indian ties

By Han Manman

Google's exit from the mainland and travel opportunities to Hainan Province are currently the biggest China stories in India, a leading Indian news presenter said at the 2010 India-China Development Forum Tuesday.

Suhasini Haidar, anchor of CNN-IBN's prime-time news program, said Indians have a growing interest in China, especially how to do business in the country.

"China is a role model in the region since it has grown even during a recession. In that sense,

we'd love to see what China is doing. I don't think the negative things between the two countries are what the Indian people want to concentrate on," she said, referring to the two nations' long-running border dispute in the Himalayas.

Some observers are also pointing to economic competition, including a scramble to corner raw materials to fuel their respective manufacturing industries.

According to a survey conducted by Indian media in 2008, only 26 percent of Indians believe

their country and China are on good terms – this was already a drop from 66 percent in 2002. Some experts ascribe the perception to the "China threat theory" prevalent in the Indian media.

"The two countries have cooperated very well in bilateral, regional and international affairs," Wang Chen, minister of the State Council Information Office, said, specifying successes in the economic and political arena.

Wang said he hopes the media, which serves a guiding role in society, will facilitate com-

munication and promote mutual understanding and friendship between the Indian and Chinese people through objective, thorough reporting.

The minister said the two nations have a responsibility to work well together to increase the strength of developing countries and improve peace and development regionally and globally.

China and India make up 40 percent of the world's population and are expected to dominate the global economy in the 21st century.

The development forum

Tuesday was organized by the Indian Embassy and top Chinese media companies to celebrate 60 years of Sino-Indian diplomatic relations. It also discussed economic exchanges between the two Asian giants and the media's role in fostering the development of bilateral ties.

Zhou Mingwei, president of China International Publishing Group, said the two sides plan to organize a series of activities in both countries this year, which "no doubt will encourage a better development of bilateral ties."

Photography festival addition to annual Sino-French cultural celebration

By Han Manman

The celebrated international photography festival Les Rencontres d'Arles will debut in China at this year's Croisements Festival, French Ambassador Herve Ladsous said at a news conference on yesterday.

The 2010 Croisements Festival from April 6 to June 21 will showcase nearly 200 events, including dances, plays, concerts and exhibitions in 27 cities throughout China.

"There will be collaborations in all artistic fields between renowned French artists and China's most creative artists," Ladsous said.

Dance has been given an important place in the program this year. Ten classical and contemporary

ballets performed by French and Chinese companies will be staged, including *Blanche Neige* choreographed by Angelin Preljocaj, *Transports Exceptionnels* by the Beau Geste company and *Don Quichotte* by the Liaoning Ballet based on Jean-Paul Gravier's choreography.

Les Rencontres d'Arles is an exciting addition to the annual 100-day festival. For 40 years, Les Rencontres d'Arles has been a big get-together for professional and amateur photographers worldwide, who meet in the southern French city of Arles to discover new talents and celebrate old masters, said Francois Hebel, director of the event.

This year, the festival will be held April 17 to 21 in Caochangdi

artists' village.

Among its highlights is Beijing-based French photographer Anais Martane's exhibition, *Shanghai, the City's Jewish History*. Her quest for her Jewish identity led her to Shanghai, to investigate the old city's Jewish population. The exhibition, which unveils a little-known part of the city's history, will be presented at the Tianjin Synagogue, in Shanghai's old British concession.

The Croisements Festival, established by French and Chinese authorities in 2006 to promote cultural exchanges, has already affirmed itself as a premier event on Beijing and Shanghai's spring cultural calendar.



Blanche Neige choreographed by Angelin Preljocaj

Photo provided by French Embassy

BEIJING 2010' THE JOB FAIR FOR FOREIGNERS

April 17th 2010 Hongkong Macao Center
Tel: +8610-6846-8025
<http://jobfair.chinajob.com>







Local NGO maps culture of remote Guizhou village



A CHP project documents the traditional culture in Congjiang, a remote multi-minority village in Guizhou Province.

Photo provided by CHP

By Liang Meilan

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center's forum "Saving Gulou," which would have discussed redevelopment of the Drum and Bell Tower neighborhood, may have been canceled by authorities, but the non-event managed to generate more publicity and sympathy for the campaign.

Registered as a local NGO in 2003, the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP) promotes the protection of cultural heritage sites, the revitalization of ethnic minorities' traditional culture and the involvement of ordinary citizens in these efforts.

Working closely with UNESCO and the Chinese govern-

ment, the center has helped stop several demolition projects across China. This includes the Kashgar government's plan to redevelop its city, which would have torn down old architecture in what was once a major stop on the Silk Road trading route.

This year, the center is sponsoring five lectures at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Arts (UCCA), each of which discusses a preservation project. The third and next lecture, "Congjiang Cultural Mapping – Tapping the Cultural Momentum of Community Development," happens April 24 and focuses on a project in Congjiang, a remote multi-minority village in Guizhou Province.

The goals of the Congjiang

project are to recognize the important role that culture plays in development, help improve living standards in ethnic minority regions while maintaining sensitivity to their culture and promote the belief that cultural diversity is as fundamental to humanity as biodiversity is to nature.

Village residents will be actively involved in documenting their cultural heritage. "During this process, local participants will be able to develop a greater sense of pride in their own culture while contributing to the completion of a vivid record of their existence," Wu Lili, CHP's media coordinator, said.

The center also filmed a short documentary on the Congjiang project, *The Souls Paradise: Con-*

gjiang, which received a lot of buzz when it was screened at UNESCO's biennial global conference in Paris in October 2009.

CHP is working with UNESCO on this three-year project. "This program is part of a larger project, 'Chinese Culture and Development,' involving eight UN organizations and funded by the Spanish Government Millennium Goals Fund. CHP is the only true NGO among the several national committees, associations, and science institutes working on this project," Wu said.

The Congjiang project is using the same cultural mapping methodology that helped anthropologists study aboriginal communities in Australia in the 1960s.

Cycling club says bikes solution to pollution, traffic jams

By Annie Wei

In a country where every household has at least one bicycle, you would think nobody would bat an eyelash at another cycling club.

But a group-cycling event held last Sunday to welcome the arrival of spring still attracted local media like Beijing TV and the Global Times. The organizer, Smarter Than Cars (STC), is promoting bicycles as an alternative to cars as a chief mode of transportation around the capital. As a bonus, STC members are also taught bike stunts.

The club was founded by Shannon Bufton, an Australian urban designer, and Innes Brune, a German trick cyclist and owner of Natooke, a bicycle shop. Bufton and Brune said cycling is the best way to get around the city: it is cheap, will not get you snarled in traffic and is kind to the environment.

According to official data, 4 million cars were registered in Beijing at the end of last year, which meant

increased air pollution and traffic jams. Meanwhile, the city's main roads have bike lanes just waiting to be used.

On Sunday, 40 local and foreign STC members set off from the Drum and Bell Tower at 11 am and headed toward Chaoyang Park for a picnic lunch.

Brune, a former member of Germany's national artistic cycling team and who has been performing around the world for close to two decades, said she liked best the route along the Liangma Canal where cyclists can occupy almost the entire road.

The participants all rode fixed-gear bikes – models that are not capable of coasting since they have no freewheel; the sprocket is screwed directly onto the hub. Whenever the rear wheel turns, the pedals also turn in the same direction. A rider can slow or stop the bike by resisting the rotation of the pedals without needing to use the brakes. Pedaling backwards will also move the bike that



Smarter Than Car's spring ride gathers 40 participants with fixed-gear bikes.

Photo by Innes Brune

direction.

This type of bicycle is uncommon but is available at Natooke located in Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng District.

After the ride, Bufton told reporters that STC is developing an iPod application that can help

cyclists keep track of their distance, time and average speed. When ready, the software will be available at STC's website, she said.

The club lines up one to two rides a month and welcomes new members. For more information about STC, visit natooke.com.

Event

Preventative health and longevity

The Hutong is holding a one-and-a-half hour discussion on some of the ideas behind Asian health and longevity practices. Attendees will learn how different models of health and medicine developed in the East and West, how people can combine Eastern and Western knowledge to improve their health and how to incorporate these into their daily lives.

Where: The Hutong, 1 Jiudaowan Zhongxiang Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: April 3, 10-11:30 am
Tel: 15901046127

Cost: Free

Easter family day fun

To celebrate Easter, Disney English, Etonkids Peking House Campus Kindergarten, Beijing Daily and Landgent Center Mall are organizing a fun day for families. Activities include live music performances, Easter egg painting and an Easter egg hunt. Prizes include coupons from Disney English, which will be awarded throughout the event.

Where: Landgent Center Mall, 20 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 3, 10 am – noon
Tel: 8771 9888

Cost: Free

Artist Talk

– Feelings are Facts

Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson and Chinese architect Ma Yansong are holding a joint exhibition, "Feelings are Facts," at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) April 4 to June 2. In a talk preceding the exhibition's opening, the artists discuss the "collision" of creative ideas.

Where: UCCA Auditorium, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 3, 1:30-3 pm
Tel: 6438 6675

Cost: Free

Comedy workshop for sitcoms

Beijing Actors Workshop is sponsoring a workshop series in which participants will explore various facets of comedic acting, like physical comedy, delivery and improvisation. The teachers will use examples from classic US and British sitcoms such as *Friends*, *Seinfeld* and *The Office*. They will also talk about what makes a sitcom successful. Classes will culminate in a chance to perform on stage, as well as work on an original "pilot sitcom" to be filmed in Beijing.

Where: Fu Cafe, 71 Chaodou Hutong, Nan Luoguxiang, Dongcheng District

When: April 4, 2-4 pm
Tel: 15901332707

Cost: 50 yuan per class

(By Liang Meilan)

Organizations appeal for donations to drought victims

Buildings need shower after sandstorms

By Chu Meng

The National Aquatics Center, more popularly known as the Water Cube, leaves tourists amazed at its shiny blue, bubble-like facade. Last week's sandstorms, however, made its bubbles look more like huge clumps of mud.

So this week, the Water Cube, the Bird's Nest and other buildings at the Olympic Green will be getting their first "spring shower" to get the dirt off their surface.

"The cleaning project for the National Aquatics Center will take 30 glass-wall-cleaning professionals five weeks to do, using 100 tons of water," Bian Xuelian, an expert from the China Construction Cleaning Committee, said.

Like tourist spots and historical landmarks, office buildings and residential apartments are also coated in a thick layer of sand. Finding a qualified cleaning company should be on their to-do list to welcome spring.

"Though the cleaning of ordinary buildings will not be as important as cleaning the Olympic Green – which will affect the experience of millions of foreign tourists – a muddy building will also bring secondary pollution to homes. Sand and dust will be blown into homes when people open their windows in warmer weather," Bian said.

However, many people are reluctant to hire a glass-wall-cleaning crew.

Hu Shuang, resident of an apartment complex in Dongzhimen, considers this more of an inconvenience than a gain. "The weather forecast says we should expect many more sandstorms in April. Also, we hear in the media of cleaning company workers who accidentally fall off high buildings. I don't know how to find a reliable cleaning company," he said.

Bian has a few suggestions. First, hire only a company that is certified to clean skyscrapers and hire steeplejacks. Second, schedule your cleaning for late April since most sandstorms occur in the first half of the month. Third, book your cleaning service early so you can avoid the windy days that come in late spring. Each square meter of apartment glass window should cost 150 to 300 yuan, Bian said.

"Do not allow steeplejacks to work in windy weather, since it makes working at heights very dangerous. And make sure they wear security straps when working," he said.



Schools in drought-hit areas lack drinking water. Students smile when bottles of water were delivered to their school. CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

While northerners enjoy swimming in their gym pool or lounging in a jacuzzi, residents of Yunnan and Guizhou provinces are suffering through the worst drought in a century with barely enough water to keep crops alive.

Those who want to help can give to the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA), the country's largest charitable organization, which is assisting relief efforts in the drought-hit areas. Donating 200 yuan will provide a household basic food for a month, about 60 kilograms of rice and 5 liters of cooking oil.

Meanwhile, the Communist Youth League Beijing Municipal Committee and the Beijing Youth Development Federation called on the capital's residents to donate a bottle of water "as a symbol of love," besides giving money and goods to the victims.

As of Tuesday, the donation drop-off center, Fengtai Sports Center, had received 500,000 bottles of water. The first batch of 470,000 bottles was sent to Yunnan and Guizhou that day.

After learning of the logistical difficulty and cost of transporting bottled water to the southwestern drought-hit areas, the federation announced on its website that water donations would no longer be accepted. Instead, it appealed for cash donations. The money will be forwarded to local youth development federations to purchase water.

According to the State Disaster Relief Commission, the drought has affected 51 million people, with 16 million people and 11 million livestock without drinking water. The disaster incurred 19.02 billion yuan in direct economic losses, statistics from the commission showed.

How to help

Donation through China Post

Payee: Beijing Youth Development Federation

Address: Room 225, Beijing Youth Palace, 68 Nanxiaojie Lu, Xizhimen, Xicheng District 100035

Donation through banks

Account name: Beijing Youth Development Federation

Account no: 0200002909014487051

Address: Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Xijiekou branch (bank number: 29), Beijing
Beijing Youth Development Federation Donation Hotline: 6611 0001/2/3/4/5

Hours: Daily, 9 am – 5 pm

SUBSCRIBE
to **BEIJING TODAY**
For **gift!**

Hotline: 010-65902513, 65902534, 65902626 (voice message function is on for 24 hrs)
Email: bjtoday@beijingtoday.com.cn Web: www.beijingtoday.com.cn

How to GET A GIFT

a gift card worth 200 yuan valid as cash at Goose & Duck Pub

Beijing Today one-year subscription costs 104 yuan. You can get a Goose and Duck gift card worth 200 yuan. Stocks are limited, so subscribe as soon as possible.



Behind urban cons

The making of Xu Bing's Aerial Phoenix



By He Jianwei

Xu Bing

No art is more tied to the last two years of economic development than Xu Bing's latest installation: *Aerial Phoenix*.

Last Saturday afternoon, two giant phoenixes made of discarded construction materials "flew" in to perch before Today Art Museum.

They are an obvious contrast to the central business district's (CBD) glamorous CCTV tower and China World Trade Center Tower III.



Each phoenix is lifted by three cranes. CFP Photo

"The artists history remembers are the ones who produced a new artistic language. Many Chinese artists capture reality in their works, but few create a new language."

Xu is an inventive artist whose first artistic language came out in *A Book from the Sky*, a 1988 work that brought him international fame. The book used thousands of invented characters resembling real Chinese.

Last Saturday, Xu displayed his latest language, *Aerial Phoenix*, a lesson to the artists he awarded four days earlier at the Credit Suisse Today Art Award 2010 at Today Art Museum.

"The artists history remembers are the ones who produced a new artistic language. Many Chinese artists capture reality in their works, but few create a new language," Xu said.

The phoenixes in Xu's new project weigh 12 tons: one is 28 meters long and the other 27 meters. They are suspended with the help of six cranes.



Clay prototypes of the phoenixes

His birds are anything but gorgeous. The artist crafted each using construction waste like steel bars, safety helmets, fire hydrants, earth drills and strips of tarpaulin.

"We see many beautiful skyscrapers in this country but no one ever thinks about where all the waste goes," Xu said last Saturday. His birds perch just down the road from CBD's most exotic buildings.

Created on his return to China in 2008 after an 18-year stay in the US, the project was inspired by Xu's experiences in Chinese society and modern Beijing.

In January 2008, Clara Kuo, president and CEO of Ravenel Art Group in Taiwan Province, invited Xu to create a piece for the new Fortune Center in CBD, near the new CCTV tower.

Xu had no interest in making a public artwork

until he visited the construction site when he saw the squalor in which workers lived and worked. "You would never think they themselves lived in such squalor," he said.

From his first glimpse of the site, Xu determined to reuse its waste.

In the original plan, his work was to be in the lobby of the building. "I wanted to understand what it was like to live in a grand building," Xu said.

The first idea was a red-crowned crane. Stock and housing costs were high, and the red-crowned crane is a symbol of good fortune. "I wanted to give this work a

"You would never think our workers could build such luxurious, modern buildings while they themselves lived in such simple and crude conditions."

struction

erial Phoenix



LED lights decorate the phoenix.

CFP Photo

Xu Bing crafted each using construction waste like steel bars, safety helmets, fire hydrants, earth drills and strips of tarpaulin.

Photos provided by Ravenel Art Group

site. He was shocked
ich the workers lived
er think our workers
ern buildings while
imple and crude con-
the worksite, he was
rk would be displayed
hoped it would rattle
at goes into such a
ned crane, not a phoe-
spiking in early 2008,
assic symbol of longev-
folk feeling. Folk arti-

sans work with cheap materials to express their wishes for a bright future," he said.

But Kuo suggested Xu scrap that idea. Taoist priests consider red-crowned cranes as unlucky omens of death, so Xu switched to the phoenix. "The phoenix is a symbol of rebirth, a metaphor for the relationship between waste and fortune," he said.

The bird appears often in relief sculptures but rarely in freem. He and his assistants spent several months figuring out how to shape it in 3D, and worked with sculptures in the Summer Palace as a reference.

In April 2008, they found a factory to work on the sculpture. The project was far more difficult than expected - Xu's ideas were not suited for making the transition to reality.

Because the materials were wastes of construction sites, it was difficult to find how each could fit into the phoenix. The creation risked a high rate of failure.

Progress slowed in July 2008 when high-polluting factories were ordered to shut down until the end of the Olympics.

"Construction sites stopped working, and our stream of supplies vanished. We ended up flying to Henan Province to buy their garbage," Lu Xin, one of Xu's assistants, said.

After the Olympic Games came another blow: the client pulled his investment in late 2008 when world markets were in free fall.

With no investment, work stopped.

Both the artists and art organization worried about the future of the piece. With Kuo's help, a

Taiwanese entrepreneur and one of the leading collectors of Chinese art, Barry Lam, threw down the money to fund Xu.

Lam bought the phoenixes for 20 million yuan.

The project was finished, but where to house the birds became the next issue. They could not stay in the building lobby as originally planned, but Xu was adamant they stay in CBD as a symbol of what has happened in the district.

"These two phoenixes were given their souls by the hands of a million construction workers," Xu said.

From the second floor of Today Art Museum, viewers can easily see the contrast between the phoenixes and the buildings to the north.

After their debut in Beijing, Xu's birds will land in Shanghai for the World Expo next month.



Workers are also the creators of the project.

"These two phoenixes were given their souls by the hands of a million construction workers."

Xu Bing Aerial Phoenix Project

Where: Square of Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhiwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Daily, until April 6

Admission: Free

Project Archive Exhibition

Where: Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhiwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 16, daily except Monday, 10 am - 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 5876 9804

Reporter road trips to the future

By Han Mamman

American author Peter Hessler has many identities: teacher, correspondent and writer. But one thing they each share is the mark they have left on modern China.

Hessler, called "one of the Western world's most thoughtful writers on modern China" by *The Wall Street Journal*, recently published *Country Driving: A Journey Through China from Farm to Factory*, the latest in his series of books about the country.

As with his past books, this one aims to educate the West about China's modernization. But this book does it from the engine of change that is the auto boom.

China has become a car culture and aims to have more kilometers of highway than the US within the next decade.

"The most important transition in China, at least in social terms, is the massive shift of people from the countryside to the city," Hessler, 41, said.

"People are moving there as migrants and transforming the city, but the land is changing in their wake," he said. "Basic infrastructure like roads is a big part of this process. When the government wants to see a region develop and change, the first thing it does is build a road."

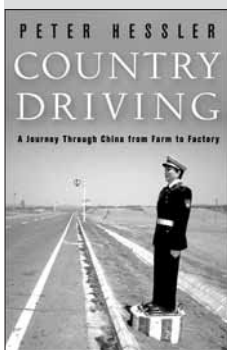
Hessler set off on a 11,000-kilometer drive across the country in 2001 when he first got a China driving license.

Over the next seven years, he tracked how the industrial boom was turning dirt paths into paved roads and small villages into factory towns. He writes movingly of the everyman – the farmer, migrant worker and entrepreneur – who has reshaped the nation during a critical period in modern history.

The book begins with his drive, following the Great Wall from the East China Sea to the Tibetan plateau. He investigates a historically important rural region being abandoned as young people flock to jobs in the southeast.

The next two parts involve long-term observations of places. Hessler spends six years in Sancha, a small farming village in the mountains north of Beijing, which changes dramatically after the local road is paved and the capital's auto boom brings

"On the road, I didn't worry about getting robbed or attacked, because these places felt very safe and people were kind to me. The only thing I worried about was accidents and fatigue."



Country Driving:
A Journey Through China from Farm to Factory
By Peter Hessler, 448pp, Harper, \$27.99

new tourism.

Finally, he turns his attention to urban China, researching development over two years in Lishui, a small southeastern city in Zhejiang Province that officials hope will morph into an industrial center – once it gets an expressway.

Hessler said the main thing he learned was how things get done in places. "I observed how farmers learned to do business. I watched how a factory got started. I saw how machinery was designed, how workers were hired, how managers interacted with government officials. I learned how real estate functions in small cities," Hessler said.

Driving gave Hessler an economic perspective of the country and many interesting memories.

He said the most touching incident was when he stopped in a small village and asked directions to

a nearby Great Wall ruins. An old man told him to take his 12-year-old grandson, and a bunch of other kids piled in the car.

"I drove off with these kids and we visited the Wall. It was amazing how much people trusted me. In America people would be horrified at the thought of leaving their child alone with a stranger, not to mention letting a stranger drive with their kid in the car," he said.

"On the road, I didn't worry about getting robbed or attacked, because these places felt very safe and people were kind to me. The only thing I worried about was accidents and fatigue," he said. "It's tiring to drive long distances, especially when roads were bad and the other drivers were unpredictable."

Though called a travel writer, traveling for Hessler was not always enjoyable.

He has been to 30 countries, backpacking in Europe and traveling across Asia by foot. "But to be honest, in some ways I don't like traveling," Hessler said. "By the end of those journeys, I was tired of being on the move. I wanted to stay in a place and get to know it better."

He stopped the traveling and chose to stay in China as a volunteer English teacher in 1996 while exploring the country.

The experience of driving across China gave Hessler new energy. "I enjoyed the first part of country driving so much, where I drove along the path of the Great Wall. It was the most enjoyable trip I ever took in China," he said.

Since China's roads are getting better and better, Hessler predicted there will be more expats in China who will take up such cross-country trips.

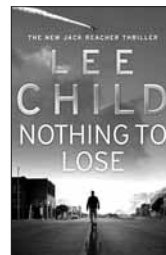
The challenge is how to avoid being frustrated by your fellow drivers. "I always tried to be patient, and there was a part of me that enjoyed the chaos," he said.

Hessler said he and his wife want to go to a different part of the world, possibly the Middle East, to live and study a new language.

"I'm sure we'll eventually return to China," Hessler said, as the country is a great place for a writer to live because so much is changing, and the pace helps shape stories.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends these new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.



Nothing to Lose

By Lee Child, 432pp, Bantam Press, 130 yuan

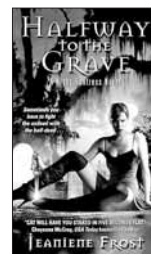
Between two small towns in the middle of nowhere – Hope and Despair – is 12 miles of empty road. Since Jack Reacher can't find a ride, he walks. All he wants is a cup of coffee: what he gets instead are four hostile locals, a vagrancy charge and an order to move on. But they just picked on the wrong guy.



Some Like It Hot

By Zoey Dean, 320pp, Poppy, 80 yuan

It is prom season, and no town does prom like Tinsel Town. Ben is back for the summer – just in time to be Anna's prom date. But his family's house guest is so hot she is bound to burn up their perfect plans. Adam finds out a scandalous secret that threatens to tear Cammie's world to pieces. When Sam agrees to take Parker to the prom, they end up doing a lot more than dancing.



Halfway to the Grave

By Jeaniene Frost, 384pp, Avon, 65 yuan

Half-vampire Catherine Crawford is going after the undead with a vengeance, hoping that one of the deadbeats is her father – the one responsible for ruining her mother's life. But she ends up captured by Bones, a vampire bounty hunter who forces her into an unholy partnership.

(By He Jianwei)

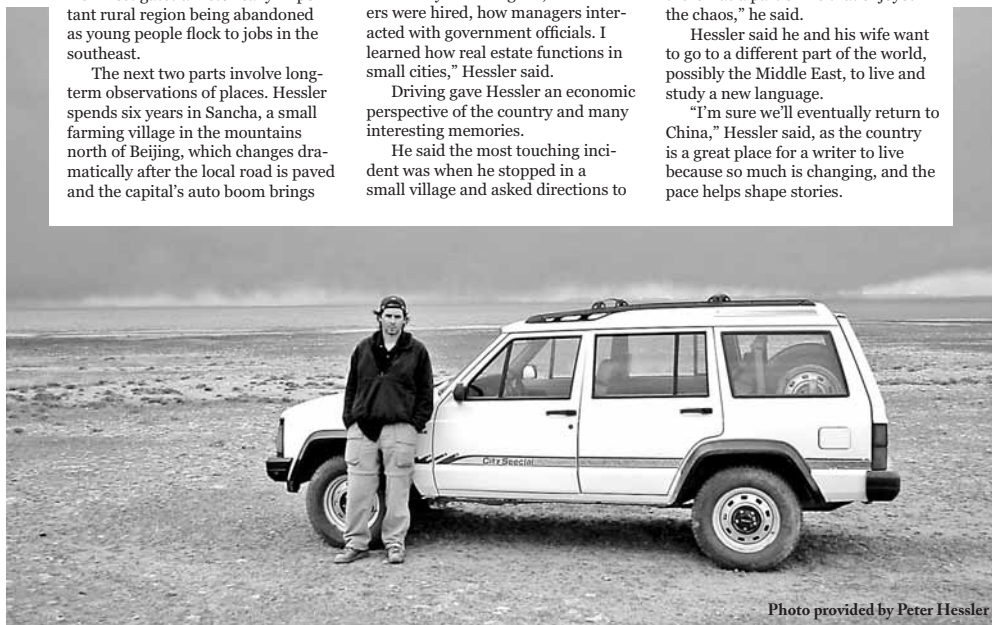


Photo provided by Peter Hessler

About Peter Hessler

Peter Hessler was the Beijing correspondent for *The New Yorker* and a contributor to *National Geographic*. He is best known for his two books on China: *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze* (2001), a Kiriya Prize-winning book about his experiences in the Peace Corps, and *Oracle Bones: A Journey Between China's Past and Present* (2006), a collection of journalistic stories he wrote while living in Beijing.

New map helps commuters plan safe cycling



Photo by Wang Fengkang

Making a guide

On one special Google map of Beijing, roads are marked with different colors. Green streets mark the best paths for bikes and brown ones mark the worst.

The map was a low-carbon transport project started by volunteers from Friends of Nature (FON), a local NGO, last September.

"They walked Second Ring Road to record the conditions for us. Those of us who ride even took a tour along all of Line 13 of the subway," says Liu Limei, who is in charge of the project.

Safety, air conditions, noise, road conditions and sights were the criteria used to judge each road. The NGO trained volunteers and divided them into groups: each team was allowed to make their own schedule. Photos and videos were added in the final steps.

"Beijing used to be the capital of 'the country of bicycles' where people rode every day. Bikes were the top luxury product for a family before they became the minority on the road. We want to revive that tradition to help solve the city's eco problems," Liu says.

Volunteers were students, civil servants, businessmen and those without regular jobs. Their profession helped – one volunteer from an IT company led the effort to make the Google map. The students, as in similar events, were core members.

The mapping project will continue throughout this year: new riding events will be organized each month.

"The first riding event was held last month during the two sessions when there were traffic controls. Volunteers passed successfully after they explained to police what they were doing. We don't usually have any interference on the street – the main problem is our office lacks the manpower to organize our volunteers effectively," Liu says.



Photo by Shannon Bufton

By Wang Yu

More people are jumping on the eco-friendly bandwagon, but for many that leading first step can be a barrier.

Bicycles are being promoted everywhere as a key element in low-carbon living. However, in a big city like Beijing, it is impossible to commute to an office on the west side if your home is in Tongzhou District. Pollution and cars are other perennial problems plaguing cyclists.

To help cyclists navigate the urban jungle, volunteers have started a project to classify how friendly the city's main roads are to cyclists. A new composite Google map rates each road and offers better suggestions for a safer, quieter commute.

The volunteers hope their map can help the capital reclaim a bit of its former glory as the world's "city of bicycles."

3-kilometers radius

Most of the roads volunteers tested were in the inner city or outside Fourth Ring Road, because bicycles were considered the best solution to transportation woes in those areas, according to Liu's plans.

"It is impossible to persuade Beijingers to ride to work every day because the city is huge. But for those who take subways or other public transportation, there is always a distance to bridge between home and the station, and then between the station and work. It's often too long to walk and too short to cab. Bikes can bridge these 3 kilometer gaps," Liu says.

Promoting short-distance bicycling is FON's job. Since 2005, when the organization began campaigning for low-carbon transport, volunteers were called on to participate and to research a more effective use of the bike rental system. Liu's colleague Zhang Wenhua developed several surveys with the help of consultants, bike rental companies and community-level civil servants. Then the surveys were distributed to volunteers in target areas.

"We made two versions of the questions for residents at Huilongguan in Changping District and in the hutong. Their needs were different, but most interviewees supported efforts to improve the system and were willing to bicycle rather than drive," Zhang says.

The dilemma

While the city did erect many bicycle rental stations before the Olympics, they were poorly used. Rental procedures were long and complicated and fees were high: as much as 20 yuan per day.

"No one ever put together a working system for managing the bikes. They just put the stations next to a newsstand and told the stand owner to handle rentals. Is it any surprise he cared more about his core business than taking care of the bikes?" Liu says.

Five-star roads for bicycle in Beijing

- Xueyuan Nan Lu
- Hepingli Xi Jie
- Sanlihe Lu
- Fuyou Jie
- Beichizi Dajie
- Tiantan Lu



Volunteers rode all streets that connect to Line 13 of the subway. Photo by Emilie

Road ratings

Safety

- ★★★★★ Bike lane available and separated from buses
- ★★★★★ Bike lane available, but cars invade
- ★★★ Bike lane available, but buses use it occasionally
- ★★ Bike lane available, but dominated by buses; riders in danger
- ★ No bike lane

Air conditions

- ★★★★★ Air is fresh and free of exhaust
- ★★★★ Limited vehicle exhaust
- ★★★ Vehicle exhaust smelt
- ★★ Vehicle exhaust seen
- ★ Vehicle exhaust choking

Noise

- ★★★★★ Quiet enough to hear your wheels
- ★★★★ One or two cars passing by
- ★★★ Car noise louder, but can hear earphones
- ★★ Noise is as loud as heavy traffic
- ★ Can't hear yourself think

Right of way

- ★★★★★ No cars parked on bike lane
- ★★★★ No cars parked on bike lane outside legal parking spots
- ★★★ Cars parked on bike lane illegally
- ★★ Cars parked on bike lane in an obstructing manner
- ★ Bike lane a de facto parking lot

Sights

- ★★★★★ River, grass and trees on the sides
- ★★★★ No sights, but big trees present
- ★★★ Young trees recently planted
- ★★ No greenery
- ★ Filth and squalor abound

Embracing traditional fashion

By Annie Wei

In this globalized age characterized by the profusion of mass-produced luxury goods, brands that capitalize on traditional designs and materials are a breath of fresh air. This week, we shine the spotlight on two brands that draw inspiration from the fashion trends of decades – and centuries – gone by.

Native high fashion embraces bigger domestic market

By Wang Yu

Jacky Cheung and Zhang Ziyi are just two of the big names on the client list of Blanc de Chine. Such a reputation may ensure the quality of the customized clothing brand, but it also keeps ordinary customers away. The Hong Kong-based firm sought to remedy the problem this year by opening on the mainland boutiques offering ready-to-wear pieces.

The brand started as a design workshop established by Hong Kong entrepreneur Yang Bingjian in 1986. Four years later, it went into retail. Blanc de Chine, meaning "white

of China," was a phrase coined by the French in the 18th century to describe the white Chinese porcelain they so admired. It also symbolizes an era when the West looked to the East for artistic inspiration.

Knowing the wealth of Chinese materials and creativity, Yang wanted to build a brand that could compete with foreign luxury goods and lift the status of Made in China.

"Chinese products have been the equivalent of cheap and low quality for so long – a similar thing happened in Japan after World War II. Mass media plays a key role in product promotion, which makes it hard for native luxury brands to build a reputation. People choose clothes to boost their popularity and prestige, and consider not only quality," Yang says.

As a big admirer of his country's traditional culture, Yang said he wants to remind consumers of the riches at home in this era of globalization.

Blanc de Chine's menswear features the *zhongshan*, more popularly known as the "Mao suit," instead of Western suits. "The *zhongshan* fits the Chinese body shape better and is more comfortable. It also allows for easier fashion embellishments," Lia Liu, the brand's design director, says.

Tang Jiaxuan, former minister of foreign affairs, can testify to this. He was once invited by Britain's Queen Elizabeth to a royal dinner, but he could not find a tuxedo that fit him. Liu's staff decided to have a *zhongshan* custom-made for the minister, which was a good move: it earned positive reviews from the British media.

"They also asked why such a nice suit was seldom worn to similar engagements," Liu had said after the event. It was clear there was a fashion niche waiting to be filled – and Blanc de Chine happily did, since Yang believes that promoting native designs helps a nation find its identity and gain confidence on the world stage.

The brand's women's line is inspired by the *qipao*, but its designers do not allow themselves to be restricted by the Shanghai dress's traditional specifications; they also adopted Western patterns.

Most foreigners regard the *qipao* as an Oriental dress that highlights a woman's sexiness. But Yang says that by dropping the "Suzie Wong stereotype," the dress can very well become an everyday attire.

Blanc de Chine's latest collection draws upon fashion trends in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), when designs were simple, quiet and delicate. This translated into lighter cotton material and slimmer cuts, like the official uniform at the time. Meanwhile, a number of *qipao* – such as the black pleated sheer silk version – added zippers to make them easier to put on and take off.

This season's *zhongshan* suits got a makeover with additional detailing on the side pockets and a collar redesigned based on Ming uniform. Wool and flax were chosen as fabrics to give wearers greater comfort.

Blanc de Chine

Where: Room 115, Beijing Kerry Centre, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10:30 am – 7:30 pm
Tel: 8529 9450
Web: blancdechine.com



Blanc de Chine's latest collection is inspired by Ming Dynasty attire.

Photos provided by Blancdechine



Silk dying for a comeback

By Annie Wei

Those who adore silk but still can't wear it in this chilly weather can opt for *liangchou*, or "gambiered Guangdong silk," which has a history of a thousand years.

According to *Mengxi Bitan*, a book written by Shen Kuo, a scientist in the Beisong Dynasty (960-1127), the silk is dyed using nectar from a yam grown in Guangdong Province.

The hand-made fabric has a different shade on each side – black and reddish brown – and is ideal for those who have sensitive skin.

Liangchou reached a height of popularity in modern times in the 1920s, when it became synonymous with chic expensive fashion because of its exquisite craftsmanship. Making liangchou involves a dozen steps and requires a month. Demand for it plummeted during the Great Depression in the 1930s, when American and European countries stopped importing the silk and switched to synthetic fabrics.

Beijingers who want to rediscover the dying art can find it at Tangy, a shop owned by Shenzhen-based designer Lianzi.

Lianzi's creations mix traditional and Western designs. For instance, many of her tops have Mandarin collars and butterfly buttons but have a Western cut.

The designer is also keeping pace with the green movement. She is careful to use only eco-friendly materials, like cotton, silk and hemp. But she says that her favorite is liangchou, which she stumbled upon in a fabric warehouse 15 years ago. Since then, she has promoted its use in her designs.

Lianzi's arty creations, however, come at a price. Her high-end liangchou pieces start at 10,000 yuan.

But there are cheaper, equally interesting options to add to your wardrobe, like a liangchou handbag with Qiang ethnic embroidery (1,288 yuan).

Tangy Collection

Where: Huamao commercial area, Jia 6, Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 8595 2288



Hand warmer made of liangchou with Qiang ethnic embroidery, 4,388 yuan CFP Photo

The art of making cheese and cooking with cheese

By Ammie Wei

Cheese is a relatively new introduction to the Chinese diet, but a growing number of locals have taken to it – both consumers and producers!

Many Western restaurants and buffets at top hotels in the city use artisanal cheese – produced in limited quantities using traditional methods – which has a richer, more intense flavor than regularly produced cheese. Beijing's supply of cheese is largely imported, but a Heilongjiang native decided the status quo could use a bit of change.

Liu Yang, 36, studied cheese making in France for seven years. He returned to China in 2007 and opened a cheese workshop, Le Fromager de Pekin (The Cheese Maker of Beijing), in Huilongguan, Changping District.

Liu aims to produce cheese that has "a taste of France away from France," as well as to expose the Chinese palate to the taste of authentic, French artisanal cheese. To accomplish this, Le Fromager imported equipment from France and follows the manufacturing procedure for traditional, hand-made French cheese.

The shop makes cheese like camembert, ricotta and tome, which cost between 60 and 200 yuan a kilogram. The best seller is its camembert.

Liu said his cheeses are made using organic milk – a rich formula minus additives and animal growth hormones. The cheeses are aged from two weeks to two months.

Although Le Fromager has been around for less than a year, it has already built a good reputation among Western chefs and expats in the capital.

In January, Marc Veyrat, a French Michelin-star chef, came to town to whip up a 3,880-yuan-a person meal at the elite Summit Club. At his press conference, Veyrat introduced Liu Yang to reporters as his exclusive cheese supplier.



Liu Yang at his workshop



A staff member makes cheese using French methods.



Let the cheese ferment.



Liu's cheese is aged from two weeks to two months. Photos provided by Liu Yang

Popular restaurants with authentic cheese



Torched double-cooked milk pudding, 58 yuan

Photo provided by Vasco's

Macanese cooking

Vasco's at Hilton Beijing Wangfujing is one of the capital's few fine-dining Macanese restaurants. The menu, created by Chef Ricardo Bizarro, highlights the Chinese, Indian and Portuguese influences on Macanese cuisine.

The dishes, which capitalize on local and seasonal produce, are light and healthy, but bursting with flavor.

Vasco's specialties include home-made roasted Portuguese sausage served with peixinhos da horta (48 yuan); marinated octopus on a bed of chickpeas, tomato and fresh parsley salad with codfish cakes (58 yuan); caldo verde, vegetable soup with Portuguese sausage (37 yuan); and charcoal-grilled African spiced organic chicken with truffled potato mash (98 yuan).

The daily selection features fresh seafood. The chef recommends either red

snapper baked Portuguese style with fresh parsley (98 yuan) and served with potato, onion, garlic and mesclun greens, or live mud crab with home-made curry sauce (98 yuan).

There are plenty of treats for those with a sweet tooth: the traditional Macanese pasteis de nata egg tarts (58 yuan) served with a shot of milk tea, serradura ice cream with cookie crumble (58 yuan), brisas do lis almond tarts accompanied by ginger ice and cinnamon cream or decadent coconut panna cotta with seared mangos (58 yuan) served with fresh guava sorbet and home-made taro chips.

Vasco's

Where: 8 Wangfujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

Open: 6:30-11 am, 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30-9:30 pm

Tel: 5812 8888



King prawns Marseille style, 138 yuan
Photo provided by The Olive

Mediterranean cooking

The Olive is a Mediterranean restaurant synonymous with healthy food and nice ambience.

Its new chef, Christelle Helf, a native of southern France and a descendant of a baker and a pastry chef, mainly orders camembert and tome from Le Fromager. She describes Liu Yang's cheeses as "quality products made through an authentic French process."

The restaurant's fresh cottage cheese (48 yuan), served with honey or raspberry coulis, is a Le Fromager product made just for Helf's order. The chef – who specializes in Greek and Italian cuisine – says that from time to time, she gives Liu new cheese ideas.

To The Olive diners, Helf recommends her signature fettuccine chef christelle (78 yuan), pasta with shrimp, cherry tomato and fennel seed flambéed with pastis.

There is also the grilled lamb rack (158 yuan) served with mashed snow peas with mint and potatoes. The mountain salad (58 yuan) is a French favorite with greens, chicken liver, bacon, potatoes, mushrooms and poached egg.

For dessert, you cannot go wrong with apple pie (38 yuan), presented as a bouquet of flowers with pastry cream and a pinch of cinnamon.

The Olive

Where: 17 Gongti Bei Lu (opposite the north gate of the Workers' Stadium), Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6413 0310

Cafe de la Poste

Popular among Beijing's French community for its steaks, salads, cheese and wines.

Where: 58 Yonghegong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: noon – 3 pm, 6 pm – late

Tel: 6402 7047

Juliette's

Relax amid classic French decor or enjoy your meal on the terrace.

Where: 1/F, Tongli Studio, 43 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 8 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6417 8188

La Provence

Another refuge for authentic French cuisine; the restaurant is known for its quality steaks. It also has a big cellar stocked with imported wines.

Where: 2/F Oulu Shishang shopping mall, 99 Yuxiang Lu, Tianzhu Town, Shunyi District

Open: 11 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8046 3536

To order from Le Fromager, visit lefromagerdepekin.com. Its products are also available at:

Sanyuanli market

Where: Shunyuan Jie, Dongsanhuan, Chaoyang District

Open: 7 am – 6 pm

The French Culture Center's coffee shop

Where: 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6553 2627

Open: 9 am – 10 pm

Icelandic talent brings neoclassical music to Star Live



By He Jianwei

With the release of his debut album *Eulogy for Evolution* in 2007, Olafur Arnalds was hailed as the newest musical import from Iceland – also the home of Bjork, Sigur Rós and GusGus.

Arnalds, 23, creates achingly beautiful orchestral pieces, which he brings to clubs, warehouse parties and music festivals. Tonight, local audiences will experience his neoclassical sound at a concert at Star Live.

Born into a family of musicians, Arnalds began learning the flute at age 5. He later explored crossover music by combining chamber strings and piano with electronica.

"The classical scene is kind of closed to people who have not studied classical music. I would like to bring my classical influence to people who do not usually listen to this kind of music and open their minds," Arnalds said.

Eulogy for Evolution tells the story of life from birth to death. Arnalds said he treated the album like one long track, and each song title is a four-digit number – its position within the album in minutes and seconds.

In 2009, the artist produced the seven-song album *Found Songs*, for which he recorded one song each day for a week. At the end of each day, he released the new track on his Twitter and Facebook pages.

The album provides listeners with an intimate look into Arnald's creative world. "The songs will be different from what's on my other album. They will be short, mostly just done on the piano," he said shortly before its release.

The songs were downloaded 40,000 times the first week they went online. "The digital age doesn't influence my music, just the ways I choose to distribute it," Arnalds said. "I make music because I like to inspire people, make people feel something," he said.

Olafur Arnalds

– **Sonicbids Tour 2010**

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: April 3, 9 pm

Admission: 70 yuan advance purchase, 100 yuan at the door, 50 yuan for students
Tel: 6402 5080

Upcoming

Nightlife

Breakcore

The party features Japanese laptop musician Maruosa.

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu (inside Fenghuayuan drive-in cinema), Chaoyang District

When: April 7, 10 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 13552276845

Stage in May

Concert

Charles Dutoit and the Philadelphia Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 4-5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Martin Stadtfeld and Festival Strings Lucerne

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Secret Garden Beijing

Tour 2010

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: May 29-30, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,580 yuan

Tel: 6590 3377

Dance

Don Quixote by the Bolshoi Theater

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 3-5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 280-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Akram Khan's Modern

Dance Bahok

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

When: May 14-15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 5833 1210

Drama

Sweet, Sweet Love

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 19-23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

The Life Attitude of Two Dogs

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao Wangfujing, Dongcheng District

When: May 17 – June 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100 and 180 yuan

Tel: 6275 8452

(By He Jianwei)

5 Friday, April 2

Movie

La Ilusion Viaja en Tranvia (Illusion Travels by Streetcar, 1945)

Two senior citizens take their last ride on Mexico City's public transit system.

Where: Instituto Cervantes, 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free (reservation by email necessary)

Email: cultipek@cervantes.org.cn

Exhibition



Second Skin

Yin Xiuzhen presents 20 new works, including Free-way, a large sculpture of a highway, partly made from clothes.

Where: Pace Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 8, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9781

Nightlife



Ruiner China Tour 2010

Ruiner is a US hardcore band under independent label Bridge Nine Records.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door

Tel: 6586 0065 ext. 8213

6 Saturday, April 3

Movie

Sommaren med Monika (Summer with Monica, 1953)

A love story between 17-year-old Monica and 19-year-old Herry crafted by Swedish master Ingmar Bergman.

Where: Lady Book Saloon, 69 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6270 1928

Exhibition



Mora's Spring Garden Sculpture Exhibition

Lü Qionghen expresses joy and sorrow through ceramic sculptures.

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

District

When: Until April 27, daily, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122

Nightlife



The No Name Trio

A local group enchants with jazz and French chansons.

Where: VA Cafe and Bar, 13 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 5844 3638

7 Sunday, April 4

Movie

Walking on the Wild Side (2005)

Director Han Jie tells the story of Shanxi Province's coal-mine boom in the 1990s.

Where: Caihuoche Culture Salon, C1, Yard 46, Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6406 0658

Exhibition

On Yunnan

Forty art pieces by 14 Yunnan artists chronicle the evolution of Chinese contemporary art in the 1990s.

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23

Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until May 9, daily except Monday, 10 am – 10 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6559 9260



Word Chains

Zhou Xiaohu presents five pairs of sculptures and videos that discuss misunderstanding, forgetfulness, education and

reproduction.

Where: Long March Space, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 16, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9768

Nightlife

Baishui and His Friends

The performances of Sichuan native Baishui combine traditional instruments with the guitar and bass.

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm
Admission: 40 and 50 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Relaxation key to ending teeth grinding

By Li Zhixin

Are your teeth looking worn down or flat? Have you been waking up with a sore jaw or having headaches during the day?

These are common signs that you may be grinding your teeth while you sleep.

New research from Germany suggests that teeth grinders are more likely to suffer from stress and use escapism to cope when things become difficult.

Night grinding sign of day stress

Researchers led by Maria Giraki, of Heinrich-Heine-University in Dusseldorf, studied 48 people known to grind their teeth at night, a condition called "sleep bruxism," and reported their findings last month in the journal *Head & Face Medicine*.

Teeth grinding "can lead to abrasive tooth wear, looseness and sensitivity of teeth, and growth and pain in the muscles responsible for chewing," Giraki said at the journal's release.

"Its causes are still relatively unknown, but stress has been implicated. We aimed to investigate whether different stress factors and different coping strategies were more or less associated with these bruxism symptoms."

The researchers measured overnight grinding by placing thin plates in the mouths of study participants. No particular age range, gender or education levels appeared to be at higher risk of teeth grinding, but those who did it reported more daily stress and stress at work.

"Our data supports the assumption that people with the most problematic grinding do not seem to be able to deal with stress in an adequate way. They seem to prefer negative coping strategies like 'escape,'" Giraki said. "This, in general, increases the feeling of stress, instead of looking at the stressor in a positive way."

How to prevent bruxism

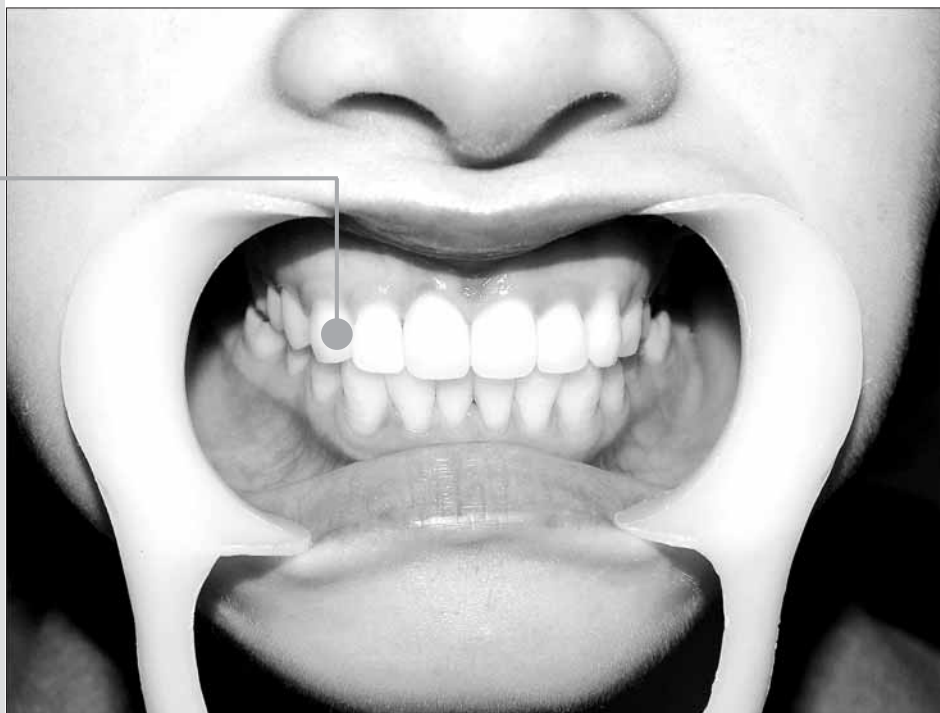
As many as 20 percent of adults grind their teeth at night. "Although it is not a major health issue, it can cause mouth, jaw and face problems, broken dentures or missing teeth. Adults should find a way to prevent this habit to avoid developing complications," Liu said.

1. Avoid alcohol and caffeine. Grinding tends to intensify after alcohol and caffeine consumption, so cut back alcohol and foods or drinks that contain caffeine, such as colas, chocolate and coffee.

2. Do not chew gum. Avoid chewing gum as it allows your jaw muscles to get used to clenching and makes you more likely to grind your teeth. Also, avoid chewing on pencils, pens or anything not food.

3. Train yourself not to clench or grind your teeth. If you catch yourself clenching or grinding during the day, position the tip of your tongue between your teeth. This practice trains your jaw muscles to relax.

4. Relax your jaw muscles. Hold a warm washcloth against your cheek in front of your earlobe for 10 minutes at night.



Other possible causes

Most doctors suppose that stress is the primary cause of teeth grinding during sleep.

"Stress can disrupt a person's sleep cycle. If a particular sleeping pattern is disrupted, the person ends up clenching his teeth unconsciously and intermittently during sleep. This is where a lot of researchers are focusing, as this explanation is the most common," said Liu Shujun, a doctor at Beijing Stomatological Hospital.

However, there are many other potential causes or aggravators of bruxism.

1. Frustration and suppressed anger

Many people clench their fists or teeth when they experience extreme anger. Many psychologists believe this is the reason people clench their teeth during the day. "Suppressed anger is wrath a person can't let out. This can be quite hard to manage," he said.

2. Aggressive personality

This factor is related to anger and frustration. Unlike sup-

pressed anger, aggressiveness is expressed anger. In this case, the person unleashes his frustration and anger on the intended subject. The person may unconsciously grind his teeth in the process.

3. Abnormal alignment of teeth

The abnormal alignment of the upper and lower teeth is referred to as malocclusion. This is one of the physical causes of teeth grinding. Dental experts believe that when there is something abnormal about the structure of a person's teeth, they grind involuntarily against each other as they make contact.

4. Growth or development of teeth and jaws

This is a cause of bruxism in children. "For kids seven years and under, their teeth are still in their growing stages. The actual growing of the teeth can cause itchiness in the gums. Teeth grinding becomes the body's response to the changes happening in the jaws and the teeth," he said.

It may also happen that as the teeth grow, the upper and lower

molars don't fit together. Teeth grinding may occur as an attempt to make them fit comfortably with one another. Children usually outgrow this condition as their teeth structure improves.

5. A complication of disease

There are studies showing that bruxism can be caused by diseases such as Parkinson's disease or Huntington disease. Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system, which affects a person's motor skills. Huntington's disease, on the other hand, is a neurological disorder that is characterized by lack of movement coordination. People suffering from any of these two disorders are likely to grind their teeth either during the day or at night.

6. Drugs and medications

Certain drugs are suspected to trigger teeth grinding. Liu said drugs used to treat depression, and similar psychiatric medications, could be causes of bruxism.

Common treatments for grinding

1. Stress Management: Hot baths, yoga, meditation or some other forms of aerobic exercise can help wind down after a stressful day.

2. Mouth Guard: A dentist will sometimes prescribe a mouth guard to wear while sleeping to reduce damage. However, this does nothing to actually stop the grinding.

3. Botox: With just the right amount of botox, a dentist can relax the jaw muscle to prevent grinding. This is not a permanent solution: results last about three months.

Religious life in the capital

Visit to four local houses of worship

By Zhang Dongya

China may officially be a secular society, but some people still visit churches and temples. Philosophy, spirituality and religion are entwined in the country's history. The capital especially is home to the biggest number of churches and temples in the country.

90 Percent travel agency offers a glimpse into Beijing's religious life through a one-day tour of four houses of worship. Their architecture, costumes and rituals are like scenes straight out of a book or movie.



Every day, five artists play centuries-old jing music at Zhihua Temple.

An overlooked Buddhist treasure



Zhihua Temple's halls are tiled black, symbolizing its ownership by a Ming-dynasty eunuch.



Zhihua's architecture and design reflect the considerable power of eunuchs in Ming.



Zhihua is one of the largest and finest examples of Buddhist architecture from the Ming.

Photos by Mocking Bird

There are hundreds of Buddhist temples in the city, and the rarely visited Zhihua Temple seems like any ordinary temple. But the building in Lumicang Hutong, Dongcheng District, is actually one of the largest and finest examples of Buddhist architecture from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

It was built as a family temple in 1443 by Wang Zhen, chief eunuch at the court of the Zhengtong Emperor (1436-1449 and 1457-1464). Unlike other royal temples with yellow tiles, Zhihua's three halls are tiled black. In imperial times, yellow was the color deemed to have the highest rank; black came second.

Though it was a private temple, Zhihua accumulated precious religious art, such as statues, a mural and ceiling panels. It also managed to get a hold of jing music, pieces created for imperial palace performances in Ming.

Wang brought jing music to his temple in 1446, and the songs have since been handed down through 27 generations. They are called "living fossils of Chinese music."

The temple showcases jing music for 15 minutes four times a day – 9 am, 10 am, 11 am and 3 pm – performed by five artists at the first hall, Zhihua Gate. Their repertoire contains Buddhist scores including "Minor Avatamsaka" and "The Praise of Taking Three Refuges." The music promotes feelings of serenity.

In the second yard is Zang Hall, which contains a four-meter high octagonal prayer wheel. The wheel, called *zhuanlunzang*, is Beijing's only remaining Ming-era wooden structure in a sutra pagoda. Its relief decorations of birds, deities, human figures, lions and flowers reveal exquisite workmanship.

Zhihua Temple's prayer wheel does not spin on its axis: worshippers need to walk clockwise around it to call on its efficacy. This is considered equivalent to reading all sutras stored inside the wheel.

On top of the wheel is a lotus throne seating the Pulu Buddha. As its name suggests, the Platform to Watch the Buddha, located at the right-hand corner of the hall, provides the best vantage point to view the statue.

The hall also has a ceiling panel carved with images of the Buddha and patterns of clouds and lotus petals. The temple originally had a ceiling panel – a distinct facet of imperial architecture – in each of its three halls; now only Zang Hall's remains. The two others were sold by the temple monks to raise funds in the 1930s, and can now be found in museums in the US.

Inside Zhihua Hall is a well-preserved mural, 3 meters wide and 4.7 meters high, a lovely, colorful depiction of 10 kings.

Wanfo Ge (Ten-thousand Buddha Hall) is a two-story building that features 9,999 Buddhist statues. The statues sitting in small recesses in the wall make an awe-inspiring picture.

Zhihua Temple's grand architecture and design reflect the considerable power of eunuchs in Ming.



Oldest Roman Catholic church

Just off Xuanwumen station on Subway Line 2 is the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, or South Cathedral, the oldest Roman Catholic church in the country.

It was built by Italian missionary Matteo Ricci in 1605 and marked the coming of Catholicism to China. Because of calamities and war, the church has been rebuilt several times; its present baroque architecture dates back to 1904, the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912).

The cathedral has a traditional-looking gate and three yards. The first yard contains the consultation rooms. The west yard,

now holding a reception area and guests' accommodations, used to be an astronomical observatory that also aided the revision of calendars in Qing. The east yard is where the church can be found. Delicate brick carvings form its facade, while its inside walls are lined with religious artwork.

The cathedral is packed every Sunday morning, when locals and foreigners come to hear mass. It is one of a few locations in town that offers mass in English. Outside, where doves flit in the yard, choir music drifts through the stained-glass windows.

Continued on page 21...



... continued from page 20



Niujie Mosque's Worship Hall for daily prayer



Times of prayer are shown in the corridor beside the mosque's Worship Hall.

Largest, best-known mosque

Near Niujie Street, the hub of Beijing's Hui ethnic group, is Niujie Mosque, the oldest, largest and best-known mosque in the country.

It was built in 996, in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), and restored numerous times in Ming and Qing. Its main building is called the Grand Hall, and consists of Cave Hall, Worship Hall and Attached Hall. The Cave Hall, built in the Liao Dynasty (907-1125) and expanded in Ming and Qing, features classic Arabian and Chinese decorations.

A wall along the corridor beside the Worship Hall indicates the times of prayer. Our tour group was allowed to witness the 1:30 pm ceremony, which lasted 20 minutes, outside the Worship Hall.

Only male worshippers were permitted inside the hall. Females attended another mosque in the backyard – originally constructed at 39 Shouliu Hutong, Xuanwu District, in 1922, then transferred here in 2005.

Some worshippers left immediately after the ceremony, while others sat around the mosque and talked. They were hospitable and discussed their spiritual life and practices.



Baiyun Guan is the main temple of the Quanzhen sect of Taoism.



Taoist priests in white-and-black costumes can be seen walking around the temple.



Visitors place incense sticks beside a carved monkey at Baiyun Guan for good luck and fortune.

Beijing's main Taoist temple

The last stop in the tour is Baiyun Guan (White Cloud Temple), the main temple of the Quanzhen sect of Taoism.

Yuhuang Deity Hall is a tribute to the Jade Emperor, the king of heaven; Caishen Deity Hall to the three gods of wealth; and Sanguan Deity Hall to the three celestial officials – heaven, earth and water – which reflects Taoism's animistic element.

The Ancient Discipline Hall is where worshippers chant scripture, hold prayers and perform Taoist rites.

A popular tradition among Baiyun Guan visitors is to touch the temple's three carved monkeys, which is believed

to bring good luck and fortune.

One monkey is carved on the east side of the middle gate of Shanmen (Mountain Gate), the temple's huge front gate. The carving has been touched too many times, so its color stands out from that of the surrounding figures. Another monkey is at the base of a shadow wall to the west of Mountain Gate. Some people place incense sticks beside it, so follow the scent. The third one is near Leizu Deity Hall, on the temple's east side.

Taoist priests in white-and-black costumes, with long hair and beard, can be seen walking to and fro and speaking to visitors and worshippers.

Four Religions in One Day

Travel Agency: 90 Percent
When: 9 am – 3 pm
Cost: 170 yuan for adults, 20 percent discount for children below 16
Tel: 15117916648 (reservations)
Email: info@90percenttravel.com

What is included:
English-speaking guide
Lunch at a Muslim restaurant
Tickets for Zhihua Temple and Baiyun Guan
Travel insurance



Niujie Mosque is the oldest, largest and best-known mosque in the country.
Photos by MockingBird

Dining



Spring Salads

A selection of new of salads using spring-fresh ingredients is available from April 1 at the Scene a Café buffet. Select your favorite ingredients and let the chef mix and prepare a spring salad for you on the spot.

Where: Scene a Café, China World

Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: daily lunch and dinner buffet (except Seafood Friday Night and Sunday Brunch)

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 35

Singapore and Malaysian Food Festival

Try diverse Singapore and Malaysian dishes in Café Marco at Marco Polo Parkside Beijing. A team of guest chefs will prepare Singaporean street food and authentic Malaysian specialties in Marco's contemporary open kitchen. Nudge over to a buffet station to indulge in Bak Kut Teh, Laksa, Nasi Lemak and Nyonya Curries. Ingredients are flown in from Singapore and Malaysia to ensure authenticity.

Where: Cafe, Marco, Marco Polo Parkside Beijing, 78 Anli Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 21-28, 5:30-10 pm

Cost: 168 yuan per person (15 percent service charge)

Tel: 5963 6420

Easter Brunch

Come out to Mutianyu for fresh air at The Schoolhouse's flower-filled and a lavish country buffet with home-baked goodies and eggs. Enjoy live jazz while the kids hunt for Easter eggs. Get up early to see an Easter sunrise on the Great Wall.

Where: Schoolhouse Canteen, 12 Mutianyu Village, Huairou District

Cost: 240 yuan per adult; 120 yuan per child age 4-12; under 4 free

Tel: 6162 6506

Easter Sunday Brunch

Take your family to Raffles for Sunday brunch. Children can paint Easter eggs, make cupcakes and make new playmates at the kids corner.

Where: East 33 Restaurant, Raffles Beijing Hotel, 33 Dong Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District

When: April 4, 11:30 am - 3 pm

Cost: 328 yuan for adults with free soft drinks; 398 yuan for adult with free Champagne Moët Chandon, red and white wines, beer and soft drinks; children shorter than 1.2 meters half off

Tel: 6526 3388 ext. 5171 or 5331



Emilia Romagna

Come and let our Michelin-rated Chef Mario Cittadina prepare authentic dishes from the two historic regions "Emilia Romagna" in northern Italy. Enjoy the dishes with wines such as Lumbrusco, Sangiovese, Pignoletto & Albana.

Where: The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: April 1-30

Tel: 8522 1888

Hotel



Recreation and Fitness Center Promotion

The newly renovated Fitness and Recreation Center at Sunworld Dynasty Hotel is striving to provide the most relaxing and private space for its 50 members. It features a fully-equipped gym, a heated indoor swimming pool and

a beauty salon. The coach can help you customize a personal fitness program.

Where: Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 5816 8888 ext. 8388

Earth Hour Food and Beverage, and Party Activities

Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel Beijing had special foods, beverages and party activities to celebrate Earth Hour 2010 last Saturday. Evening activities included candlelit dinners at Coffee Garden and The Horizon Chinese Restaurant. At Centro, BMA award winner Avis Ellis counted down to Earth Hour

2010 with environmentally-oriented numbers that included Michael Jackson's "Heal The World." Only acoustic music was played during Earth Hour to support the event. The mood heated up with a samba dance to start Centro's Brazilian Party that was pushed back on occasion of Earth Hour.

Events

Authentic American Sunday Roast

Indulge in a carefree Sunday that starts with a good old-fashioned lazy Sunday Roast with family and friends. Reviving American classics with a contemporary flair, sample an array of your favorite starters and soups; indulge in unlimited servings of prime beef rib and other "cuts" right at your table side; and complete this gourmet experience with a delicious selection of traditional puddings, pies and other temptations from our Dessert Library.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: noon - 3pm, every Sunday

Cost: 178 yuan per person, add 98 yuan per person for the wine buffet; subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 5865 5030

Tourism

Sugar Beach

The Sugar Beach is the perfect place to relax, with 30 acres of beautiful gardens, all manner of water and land sports and activities by day, the romance of the starlit tropical sky at night and glorious food with a feast of Mauritian, Mediterranean and world flavors. Sugar Beach Resort encompasses a magnificent 20-acre tropical park filled with floral fragrance. With over half a kilometer of sandy beaches, the resort covers more than 12 hectares featuring beautiful landscaped tropical gardens with contemporary plantation-style architecture. The buildings comprise the central reception, the Manor House and 16 villas - 10 with 12 rooms each and six with 10 rooms each.

For more information, visit mauritius.net/index.php.

Aviation

KLM launches scheduled service to Hangzhou

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will launch scheduled service between Amsterdam and Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport on May 8. KLM is the first airline to offer direct service between Hangzhou and Europe. The new service will be operated three times a week. Flight KL881 will depart from Schiphol on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays,

arriving in Hangzhou the following day. Return flight KL 882 will depart from Hangzhou on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, arriving in Amsterdam on the same day.

For flight details, please call Air France KLM Group's customer center in Guangzhou at 4008 808 808 (Air France), 4008 808 222 (KLM).

SilkAir to start new services to India

SilkAir, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, will soon add two more cities in India to its flight network. Subject to regulatory approvals, SilkAir will offer daily flights between Singapore and Bangalore, the capital city of the state of Karnataka, from May 17, and daily flights

between Singapore and Chennai, the capital city of the state of Tamil Nadu, from June 14. The flights will be operated by SilkAir's Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft.

For more information on SilkAir, including its destinations and services, please visit silkair.com.



(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Complaining telephone number and other banking difficulties

By Zhao Hongyi

I stopped by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) the other day to make a deposit when I saw a foreign man having trouble communicating with the teller.

The guy was making wild gestures, obviously getting annoyed, so I stepped in to offer some interpretation assistance. "Can I help you?" I said.

"Yes! Thank you," the man broke into a grin, looking very relieved. "I asked her if I can open an account here, but I don't understand what she wants."

"Don't worry, this should be pretty simple," I said, slapping him on the back to calm him down and also encourage him.

I told the woman behind the counter what the guy wanted.

The teller said she has repeatedly signaled that "there is no problem," but the man apparently thought she was calling him "stupid." We soon clarified this misunderstanding, thank goodness.

"Can I open an account of dead presidents?" the man asked me to translate.

"Huh? Which dead presidents?" I was taken aback.

"I meant US dollars. Can I open a US dollar account here?" he said.

I told the woman and she waved over what looked to be a supervisor.

"She looks like a greenhorn," the man whispered to me.

"You must mean a newcomer? Yes, her nameplate says she's just a trainee," I said.

After he finished signing some documents and got his shiny, new red bankbook, we stood up to leave. He introduced himself as Brian and said he came to Beijing from the US only a week ago to work for his friend's business.

I braked at the door when I saw the plate hanging on the wall, indicating the "Business hours" and "Complaining telephone number."

The guy looked at me with a frown. "Shouldn't it say customer service hotline? Who has the patience to listen to a person complain anyway?" he said.



This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

If you are stolen, call the police at once

By Tiffany Tan

This week's sign immediately evoked memories of Hollywood action dramas. We've seen this scene countless times: a person gets arrested and upon reaching the police station is given a chance to make one phone call – it's usually to a family member, lover or lawyer. Kidnappers are not as kind. They typically call or send a video to the victim's loved ones demanding ransom. Then the police enter the picture.

So, unless the victim – who might also play the hero – manages to locate a phone in the darkened warehouse



after undoing his restraints, or has a built-in communication mechanism (which can happen in sci-fi flicks), an ordinary "stolen person" won't have a chance to call the authorities for help.

Being a victim of pickpockets is

another story. My American colleague, who has lived in Beijing for six years, told me that locals normally do not report such cases for fear of retaliation. "They're afraid the thief will wait for a chance to take revenge on them on the street," he said. When I raised an eyebrow in skepticism, he said, "It's not that hard, especially when the theft happens at a subway or bus stop. The person is bound to pass by again."

This is the situation the sign is talking about. It reads, Immediately report theft to the police. To tolerate evil is to abet it.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. At the cheap

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): This is a wrong usage of the phrase "on the cheap." It is not "at the cheap," but we may say "at a cheap price." For instance, she bought the dress at an exceptionally cheap price. In the phrase "on the cheap," the word is a noun. People usually use it in casual conversation; for instance, Don't try to get things on the cheap. It is beginning to trickle into formal writing just as well, as in this newspaper excerpt: Imagine that you were traveling on the cheap in Cambodia when a phone call changed your itinerary and life.

Native speaker Steven Sandor

(SS): When did it become necessary to add words to our adverbs? She bought the dress exceptionally cheap. Don't try to get things cheap. Imagine you were traveling cheap in Cambodia when a phone call changed your itinerary and life.

2. I remember him call from the middle of the ocean.

ZS: We can see in this sentence a complex object comprising "him" and "call from the middle of the ocean," a direct and an indirect object. However, a better way to say it would be: I remember him calling from the middle of the ocean, with the verb "to call" in participle form. It stresses the action of the moment and has a very compact sentence structure. We can also say it in a more redundant way: I remember the time when he called from the middle of the ocean.

SS: I'm a big believer that most errors in print are traced back to the fingers rather than to the brain. This could have been a typing error where the writer intended to say, "I remember his call from the middle of the ocean." That one letter changes a lot.

3. It takes an additional meaning with you involved in the action.

ZS: No, you can't say this. You would idiomatically say: It takes on an additional meaning with you involved in this action. The adverb "on" is absolutely necessary in this expression. Similarly we have this example: The city takes on a festive air. As you know, the phrase "take on" means "to acquire"; for instance, The word takes on a different meaning in this context, or She is so careless about her diet that she takes on five pounds in one month.

SS: While the professor is absolutely correct about the missing word, the rest of the sentence is riddled with ambiguity: a consequence of being seen outside its context. I question the indefinite article "an" coming before "additional meaning": it makes it appear that this sentence should be immediately followed by a statement to qualify what this additional meaning is. If the writer wants to say it takes on more meaning in a general sense it would be best to drop the article. "The action" is also so vague as to be useless. This could be shortened to: Your involvement gives it additional meaning.

Shutter Island (2010)

Movie of the week

Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio are together again for the brilliant *Shutter Island*.

The script is adapted from Dennis Lehane's bestselling novel, and it is exactly what one hopes for when seeing a novel on the big screen. Even if you read the book several times, this movie will offer something new.

Scorsese perfectly recreates the menacing atmosphere of the island. Every location is foreboding and every dark corner is dripping with hints of unseen danger. The lighthouse, the caves, the civil war fort housing "the most dangerous patients," and the island itself – every locale seems large yet claustrophobic and isolated.

As for DiCaprio, he proves again that he is the most talented former teen idol ever.

Synopsis

It's 1954, and up-and-coming US marshal Teddy Daniels is assigned to investigate the disappearance of a patient from Boston's Shutter Island Aschecliffe Hospital. In spite of his pushing for an assignment on the island for personal reasons, he soon wonders whether he has been brought on as part of a twisted plot by hospital doctors whose radical treatments range from unethical to illegal to sinister.

Teddy's shrewd investigating skills soon provide a promising lead, but the hospital refuses him access to records he suspects would break the case open. When a hurricane cuts off communications with the mainland, dangerous criminals "escape." The puzzling, improbable clues multiply, and Teddy begins to doubt everything: his memory, his partner and even his own sanity.



Scene 1

(Teddy Daniels meets his partner Chuck Aule on a boat to the island.)

Chuck Aule (C): You OK, boss?

Teddy Daniels (T): Yeah, I'm just ... I just can't, I just can't stomach the water. You're my new partner?

C: That's right.

T: Not the best way to meet with my head halfway down the toilet.

C: Doesn't exactly square with (1) Teddy Daniels: the man of legend, I'll give you that.

T: The Legend? What the hell you boys smoking (2) out there in Portland anyway?

C: Seattle. I came from the office in Seattle.

T: How long you been with the Marshalls?

C: Four years.

T: So you know how small it is.

C: Sure. What about you? Got a girl? Married?

T: I was. She died.

C: Jesus ... I didn't ...

T: Don't worry about it.

There was a fire at the apartment building while I was at work. Four people died. It was the smoke that got (3) her not the fire. That's important.

C: I'm sorry.

T: Where are my god-damn cigarettes?

C: I have. Have one of mine.

T: Could'a sworn they were in my jacket pocket ...

C: Government employees'll rob you blind (4).

T: Thanks. Give you a briefing about the institution before you left?

C: All I know is it's a mental hospital.

T: For the criminally insane.

C: Well, if it was just folks running around hearing voices and chasing after butterflies they wouldn't need us.



Scene 2

(Teddy and Chuck get into the hospital and meet Dr. Cawley, who is in charge.)

Dr. Cawley (D): McPherson is a good man. He believes in the work they do here.

T: And what would that be exactly?

D: A moral fusion between law and order and clinical care.

C: Pardon me Doc, a what between what and what?

(Teddy is staring at a painting on the wall.)

D: These paintings are quite accurate. Used to be the kind of patients we deal with here were shackled and left in their own filth. They were beaten, as if whipping them bloody would drive the psychosis out of them. We drove screws into their brain and submerged them in icy water until they lost consciousness or even drowned.

C: And now?

D: We treat them. Trying to heal, to cure. And if that fails, we at least provide them with a measure of comfort in their lives. Calm.

T: These are all violent offenders, right? They've hurt people. Murdered them in some cases.

D: In almost all cases. Yes.

T: Then personally Doctor, I'd have to say ... screw their sense of calm.

Vocabulary

1. square with: to match with

2. What are you smoking: a question to suggest someone's assumptions are lunacy, as if formed by drug use

3. got: here it means killed

4. rob someone blind: to rob completely

5. blow the lid off: to expose the truth of a cover-up

(By Wang Yu)

Scene 3

(When doing the investigation of the island, Teddy and Chuck are trapped in an old house due to the hurricane.)

T: I started doing some checking on Aschecliffe. Lot of people knew about this place, but no one wants to talk. You know, it's like they're scared or something. You know this place is funded by a special grant from the House of American Activities Committee.

C: And how exactly do we fight the commies from an island in Boston Harbor?

T: By conducting experiments on the mind. Least that's my guess.

C: And you think that's going on here?

T: Like I said, nobody would talk. Until I found someone who used to be a patient here. Guy's name's George Noyce. Nice college kid. Socialist. He gets offered some money to do a psych study. Guess what they were testing.

C: Toothpaste.

T: So he starts seeing dragons everywhere. Almost beats his professor to death. Ends up appearing in Aschecliffe. Ward C. They release him after one year, right? What does he do? Two weeks on a mainland he walks into a bar, stabs three men to death. His lawyer pleads insanity, but Noyce? He stands up in the courtroom and he begs the judge for the electric chair, anywhere but a mental hospital. Judge gives him life in Dedham Prison.

C: And you found him?

T: Yeah, I've found him. He's a mess. But it's pretty clear from what he tells me.

C: What?

T: They're experimenting on people here.

C: I do not know, boss. I dunno how you believe a crazy ...

T: That's the beauty of it. Crazy people, they're the perfect subjects. They talk? Nobody listens. I stood in Dachau. We saw what human beings are capable of doing to each other, right? For Christ's sake, we fought a god-damn war to stop them, and now we find out it may be happening here? On our soil? No.

C: So what are you really here to do, Ted?

T: I'm gonna get the proof. I'm gonna go back, and I'm gonna blow the lid off (5) this place. That's it.